



THE MAGAZINE FOR THE ALPHA MALE

RAIDER

OUTDOORS - ADRENALINE - TACTICAL - ESSENTIALS - FITNESS - EXPLORE

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FIRST SPEAR

PAGE 19

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CHOICE PICKS!

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EVERY DAY
ESSENTIALS
INSIDE!
DON'T LEAVE HOME
WITHOUT THEM!



THERMAL LAYERING

WINTER LINGERS ON!
KEEPING YOUR CORE
WARM IS A MUST!

PAGE 37

FREE CENTRE-FOLD
POSTER INSIDE!



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VOLUME 8 ISSUE 11 £4.25



FIRST TACTICAL SMALL DUTY LIGHT THE RIGHT NOW RANGE! NEWS FROM THE FRONT LINE

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DISTRIBUTED BY COMAG

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PRINTED BY THE MAGAZINE PRINTING COMPANY

www.magprint.co.uk
Issn: 1750-8584



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GEAR, GEAR AND MORE GEAR!

Welcome to another issue of Raider!

Over the last year we've been working on the Raider formula, trying to decide what works best for your favourite magazine, and one thing that constantly gets brought up is the quality of our kit reviews and how often they influence you when it comes to buying an individual item.

We've always taken great pride in regards to our gear reviews, and we've had an impressive range of testers throughout our years. During the height of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan we had a range of elite soldiers from units such as the Royal Marines and USMC who we'd purposefully post gear to so they could test it in the environment it was designed for. Once the onus of the magazine started to turn a little and operational duty began to become nigh on non-existent, we brought in a range of new testers, with some experts on fitness, survival and the shooting sports brought on board.

With all of that in mind, this month we've really pushed the boat out, doing away with a number of articles that simply weren't providing anything to our readers, instead replacing them with even more kit reviews!

On top of our normal range of kit reviews, we've got an extra FIVE pages worth this month, covering two of Raider's favourite companies and the gear they have to offer. Turn to pages 24, 26 and 43 to see what they are.

This month also sees the re-introduction of Everyday Essentials, but not quite as you've seen it before. With the Every Day Carry market becoming such a large one, Everyday Essentials will essentially become Every Day Carry Essentials, highlighting some of the best EDC items on the market for both our UK and US readers.

All that, and more this month!

P.S. Don't forget that Raider is YOUR magazine just as much as it is ours. Should there be something you wish to discuss, something you'd like to suggest or simply something you'd like to complain about, head over to our Facebook page - /Raidermag to join the discussion!

CONNOR



ON THE COVER
MASTER SGT. DAVID LOEFFLER

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THIS MONTHS DIRECT ACTION SEES FOUR DIFFERENT STORIES BROUGHT TO YOU FROM AROUND THE GLOBE, TURN TO PAGE 49 FOR A FULL BREAKDOWN ON WHAT TO EXPECT THIS MONTH!



A soldier in full combat gear, including a helmet and camouflage uniform, is shown from the side, firing a rifle. The soldier is positioned in a field of tall, dry grass. The rifle is emitting a small amount of smoke from the muzzle. The background is a dense line of trees.

RAIDER **DIRECT ACTION!**

FRONTLINE NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

C H E C K O U T P A G E 0 4 9

NEWS

BLUE FORCE GEAR ANNOUNCE ULOOP



Blue Force Gear are huge favourites here at Raider HQ, but 2015 was a fairly quiet year for them if we're to be honest. 2016 will hopefully be a much busier one, and the ULoop could be the beginning of that! Sling hooks and clips are on borrowed time! The world no longer has to tolerate loud, jangly sling attachments, hooks that eat up aluminum and plastic eyelets, or hardware pieces that take too long to attach and remove. With the Patent Pending ULoop finally on the scene, the hook and clip extinction event has begun.

The ULoop brings a level of versatility that is unmatched by any other sling hardware. Development code named the "Uber Loop," it is a quick-detach version of our popular Universal Wire Loop, offering even faster and easier installation, especially on smaller eyelets found on HK, SIG and FN Weapons. The ULoop can be installed almost anywhere - through eyelets, holes in railed handguards, and on KeyMod rails. There's no need to have multiple sling attachments. The ULoop replaces all hooks, clips and connections.



Reebok RE-INVENTING THE HOT WEATHER BOOT

Manufacturers of quality military and tactical footwear and exclusive licensee for Reebok military and tactical boots, and W. L. Gore & Associates, inventor of GORE-TEX® fabric, recently announced a new line of waterproof military and tactical footwear for hot weather, the Reebok KRIOS Series. Made in the U.S.A., the new Reebok KRIOS is the only tactical boot that keeps feet cool and comfortable in hot environments and dry in wet conditions.

"This is a new GORE-TEX® footwear technology from Gore," says Bill Candy, Product Manager at Gore. "GORE-TEX® Extended Comfort Technology provides unrivaled breathability in hot weather and has been proven in lab tests to keep feet cool and comfortable in hot weather. We've been collaborating for years with Gore to develop and test this product," says John Duvic, Warson Brands Corporate VP of Product Development. "Our goal was to construct a waterproof, lightweight boot that is comfortable in hot conditions and strong enough for heavy duty use; the Reebok KRIOS achieves that goal."

Fused protective layers reduce bulk, minimize absorption, and dry quickly, preventing added weight in wet conditions. The KRIOS'S construction results in a boot that absorbs 90% less water when compared to non-waterproof boots.



OAKLEY ALPHA ECOSYSTEM



THE NEW OAKLEY ALPHA ECOSYSTEM WAS REVEALED AT FIRSTSPEAR'S RANGE DAY AT SHOT SHOW, AND WE'RE ALREADY CHOMPING AT THE BIT TO GET OUR HANDS ON IT.

The Alpha Ecosystem from Oakley is a modular and scalable eye protection system that consists of multiple components. The critical component is the common Alpha lens which was developed using the same eye tracking work studies that spawned last year's Tombstone glasses. Those studies included shooting, CQB, fast roping and mobility.

The system consists of a frame, a goggle and a helogasket using the common Alpha lens. This is huge for the operator as well as his logistics support. Look out for a more in depth review on this system coming soon!



REVISION[®] MILITARY EYEWEAR

INTRODUCES THEIR NEW LAZRBLOC GF-8 LASER PROTECTIVE BALLISTIC LENS

Around the globe, reports of lasers used against law enforcement officials, military personnel, and pilots have spiked in recent years. Lasers have been used against riot police in demonstrations as widespread as Canada, the U.S., Ireland, Thailand, Greece, Egypt, and Italy, to name just a few effected regions. The FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) and BALPA (British Airline Pilots' Association), among other worldwide aviation officials and agencies, have recorded dramatic increases in malicious and inadvertent laser strikes on commercial airlines as well. According to the FAA, for 2015, laser strikes on commercial aircrafts topped 6,624 reported incidents, up from 3,894 in 2014. And, BALPA has found that half of all pilots experienced a laser attack in the past 12 months. Two trends are increasingly clear: these occurrences are on the rise and are more organised.

To counter this, Revision Military, a world leader in protective eyewear solutions, has developed and patented a laser dye for a dual-band laser protective lens that blocks 99.9% of green laser energy and over 99% of the most powerful Near-Infrared (NIR) component of commercially available green lasers. Revision's patented dye is used in the company's new LazrBloc GF-8 Laser Protective Ballistic Lens. The LazrBloc GF-8 lens is a unique ballistic lens that blocks green laser emissions and the high-risk NIR energy that exists outside the visible spectrum. Importantly, this lens delivers greater visible light transmission and color recognition as compared to other laser lenses on the market, making GF-8 lenses ideal for day or nighttime use.



SILENCERCO. MAXIM 9 AT SHOT SHOW RANGE DAY!

SilencerCo brought along the latest iteration of the Maxim 9 to their booth at Industry Day at the Range. The original Maxim 9 was built upon the Smith & Wesson M&P, more-or-less due to "[SilencerCo] having a lot of them sitting around". This new Maxim 9 is, by comparison, a SilencerCo design, albeit in a prototype form.

Whilst none of the attendees were able to fire the futuristic looking item at the show, there was a live fire demonstration made by a SilencerCo employee, with a video likely to appear on the internet over the next few days.

The pistol itself sports a number of impressive changes and upgrades from the initial prototype. First, it now utilises Glock 17 magazines, which is great for obvious reasons. Adding on to the Glock compatibility, the irons are designed to be replaceable with any Glock-compatible sights. Additionally, it sports a 3.5D barrel, a quick-action/safe-action-style trigger, the slide catch/stop/release is ambidextrous, and SilencerCo told us they plan to make the mag release ambidextrous as well.

Overall the Maxim 9 is an interesting take and should be an interesting item to take a look at upon it's release; which could fall as soon as Q4 this year.



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AND BLACKHAWK



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- OAKLEY - AKU - LOWA - BATES - BRIDGEDALE - JETBOIL - BEAR GRYLLS - HELIKON - GERBER - SOURCE - ESS - SMITHS OPTICS - WILEY X

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FIREPOWER

THE RIGHT NOW RANGE

"STEP RIGHT UP, STEP RIGHT UP, SHOOT THE STEEL AND WIN A PRIZE!" CAN STILL BE HEARD BEING BARKED ACROSS THE MIDWAY IN MY MIND WHEN I THINK ABOUT GROWING UP IN EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA AND ATTENDING OUR STATE FAIR ONCE A YEAR. THE SMELL OF FUNNEL CAKES AND GRILLED CORN ALMOST MATERIALIZES OUT OF THIN AIR AS I PICTURE ONE OF MY PUREST PLEASURES AS A CHILD IN THE FORM OF AN OLD FASHION SHOOTING GALLERY. SPINNING METAL WHEELS WITH 2 INCH TARGETS ON THE ENDS OF THEM, TIN DUCKS AND PIGS GOING BACK AND FORTH ON A CONVEYER BELT. CONTESTANTS USED THE BOOTH'S SUPPLIED PUMP ACTION .22 RIFLES TO KNOCK TARGETS, ONE BY ONE DOWN IN HOPES OF WINNING A STUFFED ANIMAL. *By Trampas.*

Now as an adult turning 40 in a few months, those days are long gone; thanks to overzealous political correctness of modern society. Instead of being proud of their child for accomplishing feats of marksmanship and winning a small competition, they worry how little Johnny is going to cope with having seen a so-called "violent weapon" at the fair. As a parent, I am very sad there will never be a shooting gallery like the ones from my childhood for my children to enjoy. I do however take comfort in knowing there are plenty of people in the firearms industry just like me, who aren't happy about that fact and want to do something to preserve the shooting gallery experience for the next generation.



STEP RIGHT UP! THE 'RIGHT NOW RANGE' REVIEW



HOPE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Last January, I had the pleasure of meeting a delightful and very enterprising young lady by the name of Neely Burks during the SHOT SHOW: Industry Day at the Range event. Neely introduced my wife and me to a new product her company had brought to the show for display named the Right Now Range. What seemed to be a simple cardboard box, turned out to be a wealth of fun! This 36 inch by 24 inch square box opens up into a multi-level mini-shooting gallery approximately 45 inches tall and 48 inches wide with multiple target options in both 2D and 3D dimensions. I gladly spent time out from our hectic show schedule to learn more about this neat little shooting package.

As Neely pointed out, there are thousands of steel, polymer and paper targets already on the market, but each poses their own set of problems in getting started. Where to hang paper targets, fear of ricochets from steel and sheer logistics of setting up multiple individual targets and stands can make an intended day of plinking an actual headache to get ready. With the Right Now Range, it offers everything you need from sporting clay holders to soda can hangers along with multiple preprinted targets you can reuse by adding new bullseye stickers over the shot up targets. Since Neely's booth was set up away from the active range area, we were not able to shoot on one of her targets while at the event. Through Neely's generosity, she and I made arrangements for

one of her target systems to be sent to my office in the coming weeks after the show, for some "strictly business" range testing of course.

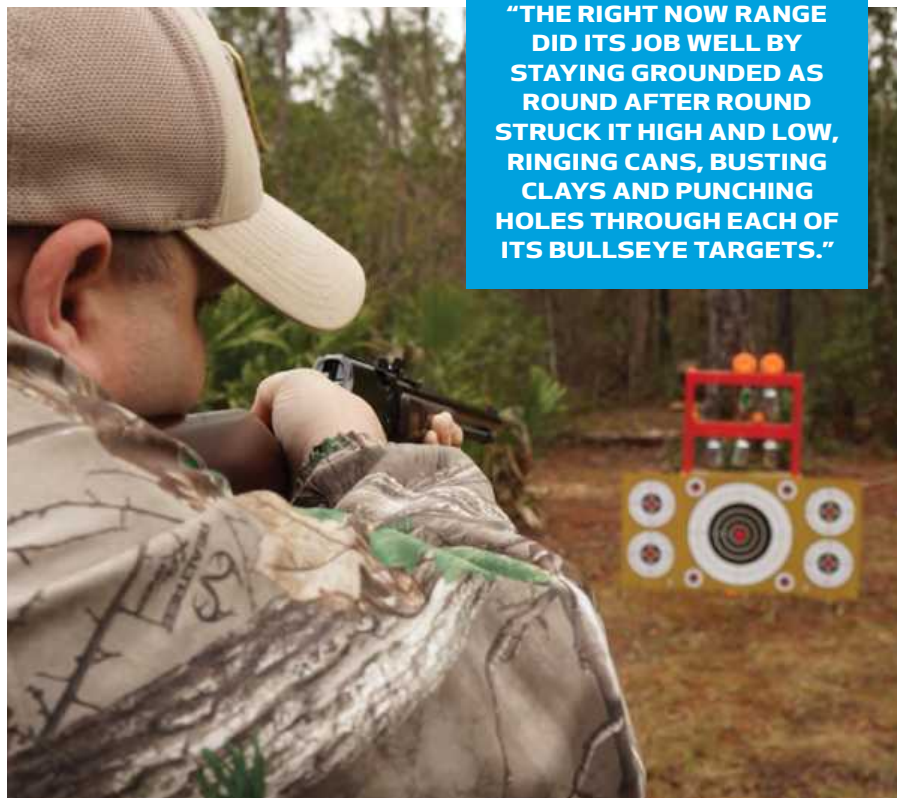
SETTING UP

When the Right Now Range arrived in the mail, it looked like just an unassuming 36 x 24 inch flat box with a colorful logo on the front, held together with two plastic straps. Once clipping off the shipping straps, it took me all of about 5 mins to unfold and completely set up the Right Now Range. I started by opening the box, removing the second tier shelving, then folding it into a secure two shelf rack and attaching it to the top of the box. The main body of the box itself was covered in various sized bullseye targets which are great for helping sight in a rifle or just competing to see who can shoot the tightest group.

Included in the package was a set of 5 "U" shaped ground stakes which did their job well in securing the target system to the ground without wavier during hits. With a simple push or step of each stake through built in tabs along the bottom of the target base, the Right Now Range was rock steady. Also included inside the package along with the stakes, were 6 hangers for securing soda cans from pre-cut holes along the back of each shelf. Being that I currently live in the "Sunshine State" of Florida, I couldn't resist but to add a few local Florida oranges to the mix. Along the top

"AT A COST OF \$29.99 +SHIPPING, THE RIGHT NOW RANGE IS ONE OF THE BEST BUYS I HAVE EVER FOUND FOR THE BACK YARD PLINKER OR FIRST TIME SHOOTER!"





"THE RIGHT NOW RANGE DID ITS JOB WELL BY STAYING GROUNDED AS ROUND AFTER ROUND STRUCK IT HIGH AND LOW, RINGING CANS, BUSTING CLAYS AND PUNCHING HOLES THROUGH EACH OF ITS BULLSEYE TARGETS."

shelf of the target system are 3 pre-cut grooves intended to mount clay pigeons upright to give the Right Now Range a whole new dimension. Between the various sized bullseye targets along the bottom, dangling cans, brightly colored clay discs and fresh oranges, the Right Now Range had "SHOOT ME" written all over it!

BACKYARD FUN TIME

To test such a neat target system in the theme of "days past", I thought it was only fitting to find the appropriate rifle for this venture. I contacted the great folks at Henry Repeating Arms Company and had them send over the company's version of a classic shooting gallery rifle, the .22 Pump Action rifle. Like all of Henry's .22 caliber line of rifles, the Pump Action model can shoot .22 Long, .22 LR and .22 Short. This beautiful little rifle sported a robust octagon barrel and tubular magazine with a lighting quick action. With its classic lines and sturdy construction, I knew from the moment I removed the rifle from the box, this would be the right tool for the job!

Pacing off roughly 20 yards, I took aim with its classic buckhorn sights and began to fire a string of 10 rounds slowly with firm, deliberate cycling strokes. The first 4 rounds were aimed at the lower bullseye target to get an idea where the sights were printing, while the other 6 were divided between smashing clay pigeons and

spinning soda cans. After gauging my hits on the bullseye target, it appeared I was striking about an inch low while holding a grouping about the size of a nickel. With a quick adjustment to the sight ladder under the rear sights, I took aim again, lining up the clearly visible brass beaded front sight and sent another 5 rounds down range. This time, all five rounds found the center of the bullseye within the same sized grouping. Very impressive for any "fresh out of the box" .22 rifle, much less one based on a design over 140 years old! Needless to say, there will be a family order for a few of these rifles in the near future.

The Right Now Range did its job well by staying grounded as round after round struck it high and low, ringing cans, busting clays and punching holes through each of its bullseye targets. Even during a period of about 30 minutes where the wind was starting to pick up a bit with a cold front moving in, the ground stakes held the target system without waver. I was impressed by the lack of drooping, tearing or buckling the Right Now Range had by the end of the day. Each hole was clean and crisp which can be easily covered with a new stick on type target, while the shelf system remained locked into place and just needed to be wiped off before disassembly (oranges being shot into oranges juice will cause that issue).



FINAL THOUGHTS

After an entire day of plinking fun and gaining experience with the Right Now Range, I made plenty of notes, took over 200 shots between loading and reloading the little Henry Pump Action rifle until it was ready for a complete detailed cleaning. With that being said, I can now comfortably make my recommendations about this product. The first thing you have to realize about the Right Now Range is that it isn't "just a target", it is a complete target system. As the Right Now Range arrives at your door, it supplies multiple targets to choose from with plenty of room for the addition of shooter supplied aluminum cans, clays and anything worth setting on the sturdy cardboard shelves and shooting to pieces. Best of all, not only is it free standing and quick to set up and take down, Right Now Range is completely reusable!



At a cost of \$29.99 + shipping, the Right Now Range is one of the best buys I have ever found for the back yard plinker or first time shooter! With over 35 years of experience shooting everything from BB guns to full auto .50 BMG, I can honestly say this product has provided some of the most fun in one day than I have had since my days trying to win a stuffed animal at the fair with a belly full of grilled corn and hotdogs! As a parent of one and very soon to be two early this summer, the Right Now Range is something I can foresee having to keep at least 2 or 3 on hand at all times when they are old enough to learn the fundamentals of shooting sports.

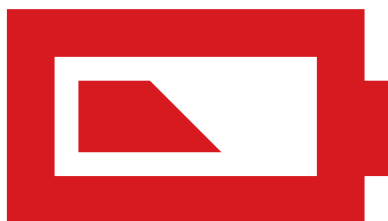


To learn more about the Right Now Range, visit them on Facebook or at their website, www.rightnowrange.com.

POWER UP!

SURVIVAL: STAY CHARGED - STAY SAFE

HAVING A PHONE WHILST OUT IN THE WILD CAN BE A LIFESAVER AT TIMES, AND WHILST YOU MAY NOT GET PHONE SIGNAL ON THE PEAKS OF BEN NEVIS, YOU CERTAINLY WILL WHILST OUT ON LONG HIKES INTO THE WILDERNESS. ONE WRONG TURN CAN LEAVE YOU VERY LOST AT TIMES, AND HEAVENS FORBID YOU INJURE YOURSELF, HAVING THE ABILITY TO CONTACT THE EMERGENCY SERVICES IN AN INSTANT CAN AT TIMES BE A PIVOTAL POINT IN YOUR SURVIVAL.



One huge drawback to the modern day phone though is it's ability to absolutely chew through battery life, and whilst some phones are getting better at it you are still only going to get at max 24 hours out of a top of the range smartphone - nowhere near enough should you be out for long periods of time away from electricity.

Thankfully along with the advancement of modern day phones has come the invention of various charging apparatus that can be used without the need of conventional power points. These chargers instead gain their power through a mix of solar energy, heat and other sources.

THIS MONTH WE HAVE ROUNDED UP SOME OF THE BEST ON-THE-GO CHARGING EXAMPLES WE'VE SEEN OVER THE YEARS, GIVING YOU THE PERFECT RANGE TO CHOOSE FROM TO SUIT YOUR PERSONAL NEEDS.

£95

GOAL ZERO GUIDE 10 PLUS ADVENTURE KIT
SHOP AROUND FOR BEST PRICE

The first of our charging solutions is the Goal Zero Guide 10 Plus Adventure Kit; an ultra-lightweight USB and solar charging system that will slide into your pocket, providing a small and easy charging solution for a variety of product. The kit comes complete with the Nomad 7 solar charging panel and Guide 10 battery charging system so you're able to use it in a variety of different situations!

You're able to charge the system up via both the Nomad 7 solar panel and the Guide 10 battery charging system, providing you with two completely sustainable charging options. The Guide 10 comes with 4 rechargeable batteries so you'll never have to purchase batteries for the system. The Nomad 7 offers 7 watts worth of charging power, which will charge the battery pack up within 4 hours. You can also connect your device direct to the Nomad 7 if you should wish to do so via a USB input.

One rather nifty feature on the battery pack is a bright built-in LED light. Whilst it's not uber bright, it's plenty bright to find things in your rucksack during the darker hours and runs for a good 150 hours before needing a charge.



£93

MYFC POWERTREKK
SHOP AROUND FOR BEST PRICE

When we were looking for various different charging solutions, we wanted to find a few that were innovative as opposed to looking at the same solar powered examples over and over again - and as a young'un would say 'that's so last year'!

While I thought we'd find a couple of cool products like the PowerPot, I did by no stretch of the imagination think I'd find something as cool as this - a charger that harnesses the power of water to create power! Sure it's been done before with hydro dams, but can you fit a hydro dam in your pocket?

The myFC PowerTrek is a revolutionary portable charger that by itself, generates electricity from water - based on Swedish Fuel Cell technology. Just by adding water and a myFC Puck with salt - you will be completely independent of the power grid.

The great thing about our Fuel Cell charger is that it is like a portable power plant - it actually produces the electricity you need. With its unique fuel-cell technology, myFC PowerTrek uses the hydrogen from the water and converts that into electricity and can therefore deliver instant, reliable power. Anywhere, anytime.

With one myFC Puck and a little bit of water you will get 1200 mAh (4 Wh). The internal battery contains 1500 (5 Wh) mAh, which you can choose to charge either via the Fuel Cell (water and a Puck) or via the electrical outlet, when you're close to one.

This is definitely one cool piece of technology - something you should definitely keep an eye on!



£123

PRACTICAL POWER POWERPOT

SHOP AROUND FOR BEST PRICE

We first looked at the PowerPot in last month's news section and thought it was a pretty cool idea for those of you who enjoy your spot of camping - harnessing the heat made from cooking your breakfast/lunch/dinner and turning it into power.

The PowerPot® is a lightweight thermoelectric generator that converts heat into DC electrical power. Simply add water to the pot and place it on a heat source appropriate for boiling water. The PowerPot® will immediately start powering up your mobile electronics. The PowerPot® comes equipped with a standard USB (5V) port, making it compatible with devices you already have. The cable has three feet of heavy-duty, flame-resistant wire. The solid-state voltage regulator provides up to 5W of power to charge your high-tech devices.

The PowerPot® gives you the power to charge your electronics anytime, in any situation. Use it in the backcountry or at home during a power outage. The PowerPot will charge cell phones, GPS units, iPods, and lithium ion batteries or will also run speakers, lights, fans, or other low-power USB appliances.



£95

BUSHNELL SOLARWRAP MINI

SHOP AROUND FOR BEST PRICE

Whilst the idea of portable solar powered chargers has been done to death, there comes a time when a company will take a design back to the drawing board and completely reinvent it - coming up with something far better than it's predecessors in a number of ways.

The Bushnell SolarWrap is exactly that. Taking the fundamental idea of a solar powered charger and incorporating it into a roll mat design allows the user to have maximum portability along with reliable power - simply unroll the SolarWrap, place it outside in the sun and you'll have power before you know it.

One small gripe we have with the SolarWrap is the fact you have absolutely no idea as to how much power it has stored in it - the only indicators are a red LED to let you know it's charging and a green LED to show it's fully charged.

Weighing in at a miniscule 3.1 ounces, this really is the way to look for those of you who are trying to keep pack loads down but still want a super handy solar charger.



£39

P3 INTERNATIONAL 3 IN 1 SMART WARMER

SHOP AROUND FOR BEST PRICE

We absolutely love a product that does more than one thing - not only does it save space in your pack, but it also means you don't have to have multiple things out at once to do a number of different jobs. So when we found the P3 International that triples up as a hand warmer, torch and charger, well we had to go and get one.

Slim and lightweight, you can carry it with you anywhere you need a convenient source of soothing heat. Switch it on, slip it into the knit sleeve, and place it in your pocket. In as little as 60 seconds your hand will start to feel the comforting warmth inside your pocket. Warming to a temperature of 104 degrees, it's safe to say your hands will be toasty in no time at all!

The cell phone charger is especially useful. When you notice your battery is low, just plug in the mini USB into your phone and you'll get an emergency charge that will keep you going. The built-in light feature also comes in handy when you're in a dark place and need a little extra light. It's also pretty small so you can simply slip it in your pocket and you won't even realise it's there - perfect for commuters or those who work in the great outdoors!



£129

POWERMAT POWERMAT II KIT

SHOP AROUND FOR BEST PRICE

The PowerSet II Kit from Powermat is designed for the iPhone 5/5s and I promise you that there is nothing that will make you feel more like a member of the Jetson family than this.

Included in the kit is two items - firstly you've got the case. The case is just your simple run of the mill charging case that promises the user double the battery life on his iPhone - mighty useful but nothing new by any means. The case is sleek and of a good design so it won't make your attractive iPhone look like Frankenstein's Monster any time soon.

The REALLY cool part of the PowerSet II Kit is the second item - the Powermat. The Powermat offers WIRELESS charging - simply get home and place your iPhone on the Powermat and it'll start charging! Pretty cool if you ask us.



STAY SAFE OUT THERE



STAY CHARGED!



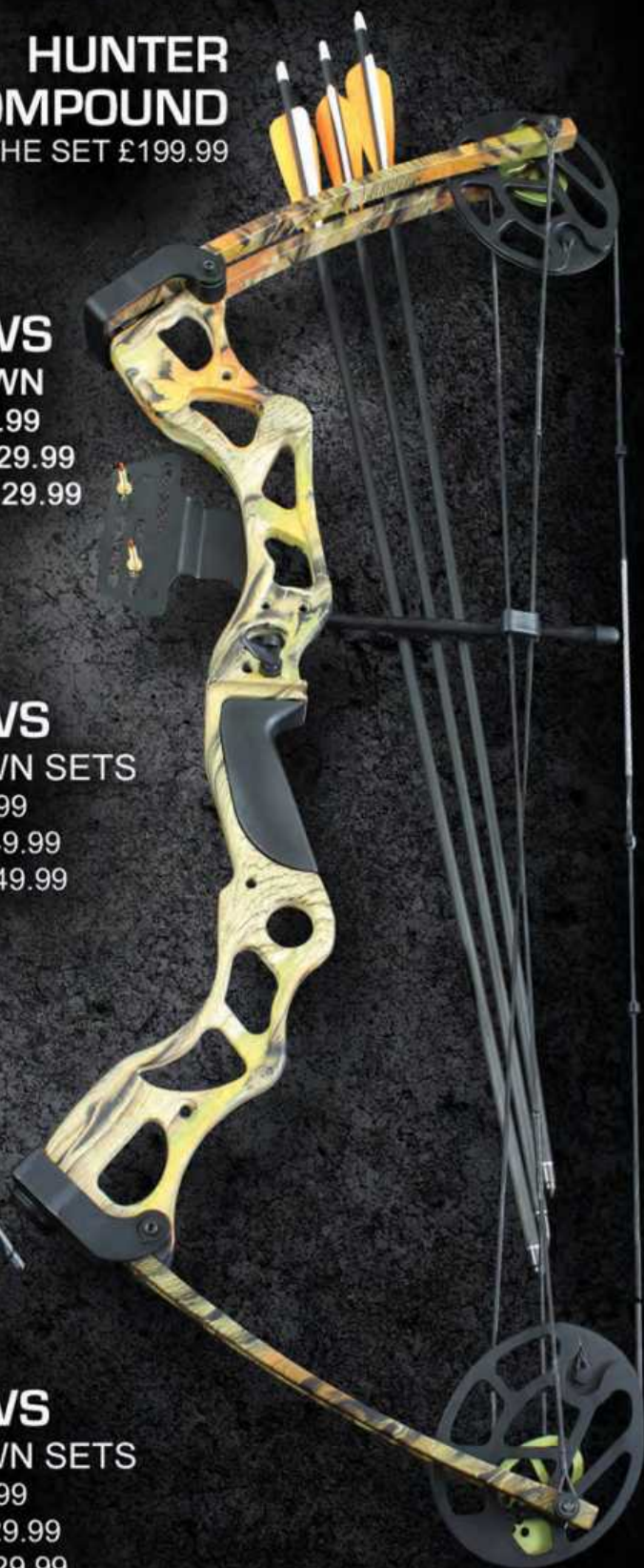
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WOLF GREY!

ARC'TERYX LEAF

LAW ENFORCEMENT & ARMED FORCES

ON OCCASION ITEMS COME THROUGH THE RAIDER OFFICE THAT EVERYONE SIMPLY HAS TO HAVE, USUALLY ENDING WITH THE BOSS STEALING THE REVIEW SAMPLE AND THE REST OF US HAVING TO GO OUT AND BEG, BORROW OR STEAL TO GET OUR OWN. ONE PRODUCT TO DO THAT A COUPLE OF YEARS BACK WAS THE ARC'TERYX NAGA, AND IT'LL COME AS NO SURPRISE THAT LITERALLY EVERYONE IN THE RAIDER OFFICE NOW OWNS ONE, IF NOT TWO NAGA HOODIES. BUT WHAT MAKES THE NAGA SUCH A MUST HAVE ITEM, AND WHY ARE WE STILL BANGING ON ABOUT IT TWO YEARS DOWN THE LINE?



PRICE: £169.99
FROM: HUEYS.CO.UK

ARC'TERYX NAGA HOODY

It takes a lot for everyone on the Raider team to come to the same conclusion when it comes to an item and even more when it comes to a whole brand, and you can likely count that list of brands on one hand, if not a couple of fingers. Over the course of the 8 years Raider has been on sale we've had our hands on some amazing products, however there is usually a small gripe pointed out by one member of our review team. That cannot be said for the Naga Hoody, or in fact anything within the Arc'teryx range, and due to this they own one of those previously mentioned fingers.

Arc'teryx for a long time were a hugely well renowned company in the outdoors market, creating some of the best products in the world for cold weather climates. Over time they slowly began gaining a huge reputation for themselves, winning awards from magazines such as Backpacker, Outside, Climbing and Men's Journal.

It wasn't long until Arc'teryx realised there was a market gap in the military world for top quality products that faired well in harsh environments, which saw the birth of their LEAF range. Arc'teryx LEAF saw the use of the same tried and tested methods that saw their outdoors range excel, but with the use of more natural colours, with the adaptation of grey gear being something that would create a trend in the tactical gear world that is still being used today.

One of the first products to be released in their now famous 'Wolf Grey' was the Arc'teryx Naga, an item that is now world renown in the military sector. The Naga Hoody is essentially a warm technical mid layer that is functional for military, outdoors and everyday use, and is used by some legends in the shooting world such as Chris Costa.

Made from a mix of Polartec Power Stretch nylon jersey and Polartec Power Stretch with Hardface technology, the Naga Hoody is one of very few tactical items that many of the Raider team wear for everyday use, with many of the team using them as their go-to work attire for the Autumn and Spring months, and then using it in a layering system through the colder Winter months.

One thing that makes the Naga really stand out for us is it's application. With an Arc'teryx product you know you're going to get an item that will be brilliant at what it does, and you'd expect that for the £185.00 price tag, however it's design is so subtle that it works well in the civilian sector, and it certainly doesn't look out of place. I can just imagine that SHOT Show is currently full of Arc'teryx products, and I can bet my money on a lot of the people attending having a Naga; either in their grab bags or back in their hotel just in case.

As expected, the Naga is both comfortable to wear and warm. The materials used lend well to comfort, with the torso being made from a

fleeced material and the arms from a comfortable stretch material. It is wearable both with a t-shirt underneath or by itself, however due to the nature of the product it is usually worn with a layer underneath. We found the Naga to work best with a Merino Wool base layer worn in conjunction, allowing the various technical materials to work in unison to provide the best result.

The fit of the Naga is of a more generous type which not only also lends to the comfort factor, but also allows for a full range of motion as not to hinder the user in any high stress situations. One gripe we do have in regards to the Naga is the hood; it just looks silly, however we're told the hood is designed in such a way to not only reduce friction points due to strategically places seams, but also because it makes it usable with helmets.

We've always been wary of dropping such a large premium on tactical gear as we've found in the past you are often paying for a brand name as opposed to a quality product, but if we were to ever recommend one item to drop a rather large wad of money on, the Naga would definitely be it. For £169.99 you're getting a mid layer that you simply won't have to replace. We've had Naga's on test for upwards of 3/4 years now and they're not showing a sign of wear. Sure, £185 is by no means a small amount of money, but for once you're paying for quality instead of a brand name here.



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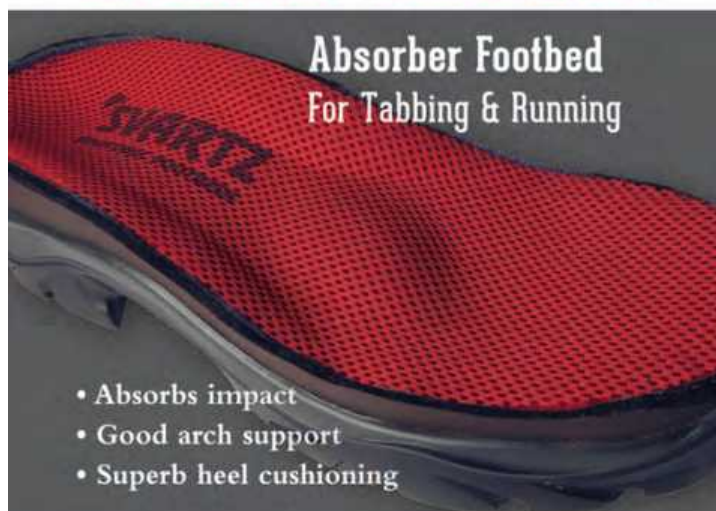
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AMERICAN COMPANY FIRSTSPEAR HAVE BEEN A PROUD SUPPLIER OF TACTICAL GEAR FOR MANY A YEAR NOW, AND ARE CONSISTENTLY EVOLVING TO KEEP UP WITH THE TIMES. FOR YEARS IT HAS BEEN A REAL CHORE TO GET ANY FIRSTSPEAR GEAR INTO THE UK THOUGH; USUALLY HAVING TO RELY ON EBAY OR ORDERING FROM THE U.S. THANKFULLY OUR FRIENDS OVER AT HUEY'S HAVE NOW MADE THAT PROCESS A WHOLE HEAP EASIER!

THE PRIMUS PILUS, ALSO KNOWN AS THE FIRST SPEAR, WAS THE SENIOR CENTURION OF A ROMAN LEGION.

"Centurions were the guardians of Rome. At the height of the Roman Republic there were over five thousand qualified Roman Centurions in the Legions. To be a Centurion required that, in a mostly illiterate society, one be able to read and write clearly, to be able to convey and create orders, to be capable of not only performing every skill of a Roman soldier but to teach every skill of a Roman soldier. Becoming a Centurion required intense physical ability, courage beyond the norm, years of sacrifice and a total devotion to the philosophy which was Rome.

When Rome fell to barbarian invaders, there were fewer than five hundred qualified Centurions. Not because Rome had fewer people but because it had fewer people willing to make sacrifices. And the last Centurions left their shields in the heather and took a barbarian bride..."

FirstSpear™ dedicates their work and efforts to those modern Centurions who hold the line and ensure that the way of life does not fall!

Their core mission, the one that really matters, is to support the people that risk everything for their country and our freedoms. FirstSpear know what their warfighters need because they actually ask them. The gear FirstSpear make and the values they espouse probably aren't for everyone. But if you want the best in lethality and survivability, you can count on FirstSpear™ to get it done.

FirstSpear™ remains focused on the User during approach, actions on and exfiltration from the objective, wherever that objective may be and under any conditions. In short...

BATTLEFIELD CAPABILITY!



FIRSTSPEAR WIND CHEATER

The Wind Cheater utilises a 100% NylonCordura variant called Ambush. Unlike standard cordura Ambush is brushed which allows it to breathe. Soft and quiet with a Durable Water Repellant (DWR) finish, it breathes like a T-shirt, sheds wind and dries very quickly. Not a rain proof jacket, will shed some moisture thanks to the DWR coating and will dry very quickly.

Great compression, a large hood that will fit over helmets (works great with the MICH 2001) and a generous cut that does not hinder you are just a few of the Wind Cheater's features. Standard on the WC are the low profile Velcro attachment points for FS Cell Tags and IFF, FS standard cuff tab and an extra large bicep pocket on each sleeve. Pit zips on each arm allow for massive air flow when desired. The Wind Cheater also has a wide range of bungee/barrel lock adjustment for the hood, collar, sleeves, and tail to block out wind when desired.

The Wind Cheater is "true to fit", so your t-shirt size is your Windcheater jacket size.



FIRSTSPEAR HYBRID HELMET COVER

Individually sized and 100% fit tested the FirstSpear Hybrid Helmet Cover is designed to fit either the Ops Core FAST Ballistic Helmet or the Ops Core FAST Maritime Helmet.

A stretch fit ensures that it remains in place during Free Fall or Rotary Wing Operations and key areas of the cover have been manufactured to allow access to night vision mounts and rail accessories. Loop is positioned in other locations for attachment of IFF capabilities. Perfect for changing your helmet's pattern, preserving its finish and dampening noise during impact.

It also makes your shiny new Ops Core Helmet look 'Operator as F**k', and that's always a bonus, right?



FIRSTSPEAR NECKIE

Modern materials make this time proven design an effective component for year round use. Built from anti-bacterial materials and constructed with a tight, open mesh design for breathability, the Neckie is a tube that can be worn as a turtleneck, hat or even a balaclava.

The mesh design aids in preventing your goggles from fogging up when you wear it over your mouth. Low profile pile attachment points in key areas let you put on IFF as required. Too many uses and too light to leave behind, the Neckie is something you don't want to go out the wire without!



FIRSTSPEAR FORAGER CAP

The Forager Cap is designed to work with your FS Clothing and Gear in support of wherever your mission, training or personal adventure takes you! Built with a slightly longer brim that gives extra shade and has a preformed fold in that makes storing it in your pocket flat and easy. The front of the cap has a light weight breathable low nap pile from Velcro that will let you put a FS Cell Tag, PVC Patch or leave the FS Embroidered Logo present.

Eye glass channels on the front and back keep your eye pro in place and make it easy to keep a second pair of shades handy for differing light conditions. Ventilation, and wicking properties with the ultra light weight mesh liner and a generous amount of adjustment on the back hook strap coupled with a small amount of stretch make for a great comfortable fit. The low bulk and light weight of the Forager make it a perfect compliment to the Squadron Smock, Wind Cheater or Asset, this cap folds up so small and flat that it fits with no challenge in the sleeve pocket of the FS Asset!



FIRSTSPEAR SSV 1911 IN-THE-BELT HOLSTER

Continuing development of the SSV Holster Line, FirstSpear has been hard at work to bring you a deeper concealment holster with the versatility that EDC requires. Available for all standard stock pistols without light in the FS SSV Line and all standard colors this holster has some unique attributes that are sure to make it your favorite. An easy to use molded J Hook lets you attach and remove the holster without undoing your Line 1 Belt, a back up lanyard can be installed in case the J Hook becomes disengaged from your belt (removable if not desired). Lastly the holster body provides a complete wrap at the muzzle to facilitate protection of key body parts from a hot muzzle during repetitive training drills. Jhook is canted at a 15 forward angle and accepts up to an inch and 3/4 belt.

As with all FirstSpear® products this holster will be continually innovated and improved, but the reliability, craftsmanship and confidence that it inspires will always be standard. The SSV™ Holster is 100% American Made out of US Materials. On Duty, Operations or Training the SSV™ Holster will always support you in the immediate deployment of responsive aggression! Built for the X™.



£69.99

FIRSTSPEAR WEAPON RETENTION

Versatile enough to be worn on practically any platform, this essential item provides solid retention for short and mid-length carbines, submachine guns and shotguns. Its plastic closures are easy to adjust and can be over-powered if required and reset for use.



This item is perfect for retaining your main weapon when needing to draw your sidearm keeping it well out of the way, making it an invaluable piece of kit at times.



£22.99



FIRSTSPEAR MP7 TRIPLE MAG POUCH

Finding magazine pouches for the MP7 has always been a massive pain in the proverbial backside and for a long time there simply was nothing on the market that would hold up to vigorous use. Over the years though with more SF Units and Police Forces making use of the MP7, a range of manufacturers have begun jumping on the MP7 train; albeit a few years late.

The FirstSpear MP7 Mag Pouch Speed Reload Triple is one of those examples, and one of the best. Designed at the request of "FirstSpear Professional Users", which essentially points fingers towards the Special Forces community, the MP7 Mag Pouch Speed Reload Triple is capable of holding 20,30 and 40 round magazines for the MP7 in a battle tested, bungee cord variant.



£54.99

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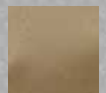
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Material: 600D Cordura
Size: One Size,
Fully Adjustable

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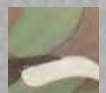
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POCKET POWER!

SMALL DUTY LIGHT

TORCHES ARE OFTEN HOT DEBATE HERE AT RAIDER HQ, WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF CARRYING ONE BEING THE MAIN SUBJECT. MANY MEMBERS OF STAFF NOW ARGUE THE FACT THAT WITH SMARTPHONES HAVING THE CAPABILITY TO DOUBLE AS A TORCH, CONVENTIONAL OPTIONS ARE MERELY BECOMING OBSOLETE.

Others argue that smartphones have very limited usage, and their light source is by no means one that should be relied on, and that a conventional torch is by far the better choice. Now both arguments bring up valid points, and two of the biggest arguments to ditch a torch in favour for your smartphone are size and batteries.

Many torches simply aren't small, and whilst having one stored in your car is all well and good, carrying one in a pocket may not be possible, especially if you're wearing a pair of jeans. Batteries are also usually specialist batteries which often become hard to source and expensive.

That said though there are options out there for you should you want an easy to carry torch that doesn't cost a fortune to power, and the First Tactical Small Duty Light is one of those options.

First Tactical are a completely new player in the tactical gear market. First launching in the US and Asia in July 2015, 2016 has seen them push onto the UK and European markets, and they plan to supply the end consumer with high quality products for both men and women at a competitive price.

First Tactical are focused on providing the end consumer with product that is specific to requirements, guided by innovation and reliability. Their design process combines both advanced technical materials with state-of-the-art components, with their end product being a fully functional item created for professionals in the military, emergency and police service.

To do this they have enrolled the help of various real operators from the various tactical fields, and follow a circular development process: LISTEN, ENGINEER, FIELD TEST and DEPLOY. This process allows them to fully gauge feedback from the various end users they are targeting, ultimately allowing them to produce a better product.

The First Tactical Small Duty Light is obviously the culmination of our Raider staff arguments, as it's a small torch that makes use of simple AA batteries - exactly what we were asking for! At 4.3 inches long and 0.9 inches wide, the Small Duty Light lends itself perfectly to the idea of a small everyday carry torch that will easily slide into a pocket without digging into your leg in the process.

The Small Duty Light comes equipped with two different light settings - a high beam and a low beam, along with a rather over complicated way to access the two settings. Half compress the switch and then hold for the high setting, and half compress twice and then hold for the lower setting. After some getting used to the mechanic, it becomes relatively easy to get the correct light setting, but to begin with selecting the lower of the two was a little bit of an art. We can also see why it has been done like this. Having a light that can tap into two different light sources without having to cycle through will give you the instant light source you need, so should you need a low light to read a map without alerting anyone to your whereabouts, you can.

The Small Duty Light boasts a 4 hour runtime on the higher setting and 26 hours on the lower setting provided the battery is new. Whilst we've been unable to fully verify these times, in our short period of playing with the torch we have noticed the higher setting to dim a little after prolonged use; roughly around 2-3 hours



FIRST TACTICAL

which would support the lights out claim at 4 hours. The brightness is nothing to write home about, but are you using a 4.3 inch long torch for brightness and amazing quality? We're not too sure. We can imagine this'd be much more suited for finding something you've dropped on the floor on a dark night, or purely for use as a map torch whilst on operational duty.

The torch is made of an Aerospace grade anodised aluminum, and feels fairly sturdy so you should be safe throwing it around a little. But again, we can't imagine this being used as your main torch should you be a soldier, more a back-up should you need it, or as an everyday carry torch that is inexpensive to run and should it run out of battery new ones are easily sourced.

Overall the First Tactical Small Duty Light was a pleasant first foray into First Tactical's extensive range, and is definitely a solid torch that comes in a easy to carry frame. Whilst we would question it's capability on the battlefield, we certainly see a place for it in the everyday carry world, so much so that it is now stored in my car glovebox should I ever need it!

THE SMALL DUTY LIGHT COMES WITH AN ADJUSTABLE BUNGEE FINGER LOOP, A STRIKE BEZEL AND 1 AA BATTERY SO YOU CAN INSTANTLY TEST YOUR TORCH

INTELLIGENT ARMOUR BELT REVIEWS

INTELLIGENT ARMOUR ARE ONE OF VERY FEW UK TACTICAL COMPANIES THAT CAN PROMISE THAT ALL OF THEIR PRODUCT ARE MADE RIGHT HERE IN THE UK; LOOKING MORE TOWARDS THE QUALITY OF THE PRODUCT AS OPPOSED TO THE PRICE. OVER THE YEARS THEIR BELTS HAVE BECOME A MAINSTAY HERE AT RAIDER HQ, AND THIS MONTH WE'LL BE TAKING A LOOK AT THEIR FULL RANGE!

Intelligent Armour have been Raider favourites for a long time, and rightly so. Their attention to detail, ability to listen to feedback and manufacturing quality are unrivalled in the UK. Over the years we've had the pleasure of using each of these belts in some capacity, with some of them being our usual go-to belts when the time is right.

Each Intelligent Armour belt is made here in the UK, so you can be assured you won't be buying some cheaply made item that will fail on you in your moment of need, and you also know that if something does fail (which we can assure you it won't), you'll be able to get on the phone and speak to someone regarding it with relative ease.

SO WITHOUT FURTHER ADD, HERE ARE OUR FAVOURITE BELTS FROM THE INTELLIGENT ARMOUR RANGE...

WHAT A BELTER!



£49.20

INTELLIGENT ARMOUR SF RIGGERS BELT

The Intelligent Armour SF Riggers Belt is manufactured to the same standards using the same military specification webbing and thread as our Combat Holster Belt, yet uses a lightweight AustriAlpin "Cobra Frame" in place of a heavyweight forged metal roll-pin buckle. The SF Riggers belt is fully manufactured by Intelligent Armour in the UK, all component materials are of military specification.

Using the AustriAlpin "Cobra Frame" reduces the overall weight of the belt, and the belt buckle has a tensile strength of 18kN.

Ideal for emergency services, police, military and Special Forces, the SF Riggers Belt was designed by Intelligent Armour as a complement to our Combat Holster Belt. As with the Combat Holster Belt, attention to detail and to the materials used make the SF Riggers Belt one of the very best combat belts on the market today.

Available In: Black, Sand, Foliage Green, Olive Drab, Coyote Tan.



£66.00

INTELLIGENT ARMOUR TACTICAL RIGGERS BELT

Intelligent Armour's Tactical Riggers Belt is a 1.75" stiffened belt designed with military and Special Forces use in mind, manufactured to a very high specification, the Intelligent Armour Tactical Riggers Belt is the ultimate military riggers belt.

A stiffened tactical riggers belt with the addition of Molle loops for the attachment of Molle pouches. The Intelligent Armour Tactical Riggers Belt features the new AustriAlpin D-ring COBRA®, a hybrid of two standard products of safety industry hardware: the parachute D-Ring and the ANSI cobra. The AustriAlpin Cobra Buckles tensile strength is 18Kkn and rated to ANSI and CSA standards.

The IA Tactical Riggers Belt is manufactured with two layers of type 7 webbing; not one like other military or army style belts. The two layers with the addition of a stiffener offer superior strength; all making a belt that will outlast its rivals on wear and tear.

Intelligent Armour has been manufacturing tactical and military belts in the UK since 2011. All IA belts are manufactured to very high standards using the very best possible materials. The type 7 webbing used in all our 1.75" belts is manufactured in the USA to military specification MIL-W-4088 & MIL-W-27265 (R). Type 7 webbing has a tensile strength of 6000lb. All belts are stitched with type 69 Nylon bonded thread that is rot and mildew resistant.

Available In: Black, Sand, Foliage Green, Olive Drab, Coyote Tan.





£66.00 **INTELLIGENT ARMOUR**
CT TEAM OPERATORS BELT

RAIDER RECOMMENDS!
★★★★★

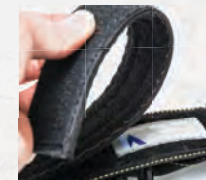
The Intelligent Armour CT Team Operators Belt was designed as a cross between IA's Combat Holster Belt and SF Riggers Belt, the CT Team Operators Belt is a light weight military holster belt with riggers attachment and Molle system.

The concept behind this military belt is weight. By using the lightest possible military specification materials. Intelligent Armour have also gone away from a standard metal riggers attachment to using a nylon webbing loop. They have also added Molle to the side and rear of the belt to enable attachment of carabiners or dump pouches.

As per their Combat Holster Belt, the belt has been stiffened to enable it to be strong and stiff enough to carry the weight of a holster or thigh-rig mount, but lighter than other holster, combat belts or CQB Riggers belts.

Some clients have asked that Intelligent Armour add an extra Velcro Loop to the inside of the belt. This is to aid slip when used with holsters and thigh rigs (Hook Velcro is added to the strap that loops through the belt to stop any slippage). This option is now available for and extra £4.50.

Available In: Black, Sand, Foliage Green, Coyote Tan.



£36.00 **INTELLIGENT ARMOUR**
1.5" RANGE BELT

Manufactured in Gloucestershire by intelligent Armour, the IA 1.5" Range Belt is a lightweight stiffened belt designed to support holsters and that will fit everyday trousers, making it a perfect product from the United States market for both concealed and open carry.

Featuring the 38mm AustriAlpin Cobra Buckle, the IA 1.5" Range Belt weighs in at only 160 grams in size 36" making it one of the lightest belts of its type and size on the market.

The Intelligent Armour 1.5" Range Belt has a good range of adjustment for size. Two inches down and three up; offering a good range of adjustment compared to other belts. adjustment is made via the AustriAlpin Cobra Buckle and the loose end of the webbing is secured with Velcro hook and loop (as with our other belts).

Available In: Multicam, Multicam Arid, Multicam Black, Kryptex Highlander, Kryptex Typhon, Olive Drab, Coyote Tan, Foliage Green, Black.



£19.80 **INTELLIGENT ARMOUR**
LIGHTWEIGHT COMBAT BELT

Intelligent Armour tell us that they are often asked about their belts, all of which we make here at our offices in Gloucestershire. Recently one of their visitors who is presently serving with a UK Special Forces unit asked if we could produce a even more lightweight belt; something that just keeps your trousers up!

So that is exactly what they did. the new Intelligent Armour Lightweight Combat Belt 1 inch is a belt that can be worn with any trousers on or off duty without worrying about the width of the belt. At 1 inch, this Intelligent Armour Lightweight Combat Belt 1 inch will fit snugly on tactical trousers or jeans and is easily adjusted.

The Intelligent Armour Lightweight Combat Belt makes use of the smallest in the Cobra Buckle range from AustriAlpin, the 1" Cobra Buckle. This is both lightweight, and very strong.

Cobras are CNC machined from the highest grade 7075 aluminium alloy and feature solid brass and stainless internal release mechanisms. All AustriAlpin Cobra Buckles are tested and certified by highly respected independent /3rd party test houses and exceed Military Specification guidelines.

Available In: Multicam, Multicam Arid, Multicam Black, ATACS, Kryptex Highlander, Kryptex Typhon, Olive Drab, Coyote Tan, Foliage Green, Black.



WARRIOR ASSAULT SYSTEMS X300 PACK

OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF REVIEWING A WIDE RANGE OF HIGH QUALITY AND HARD-WEARING BAGS IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES - FROM THE TRIPLE AUGHT DESIGN LITESPEED REVIEWED IN LAST MONTHS ISSUE, THROUGH TO SOME STRONG EXAMPLES FROM THE LIKES OF MAXPEDITION, MYSTERY RANCH AND BLACKHAWK. THIS MONTH WE HAD THE PLEASURE OF GETTING OUR HANDS ON THE WARRIOR ASSAULT SYSTEMS' X300, AND BOY IS IT A GOODIE.

£134.95

LEADER OF THE PACK

We've always had good experiences with Warrior kit and it has never let us down. Perhaps the only criticism we can make of previous products is that they were a little on the heavyweight side. Some buyers prefer something that is both utterly tough and totally robust but in the modern day and age, a lot of buyers are thinking light and fast. WAS have responded by changing the primary material used in a lot of their kit to 500d Cordura along with many of their tactical industry contemporaries.

For the last 5 or so years, I've been using an old Warrior Crusader pack, a product long since discontinued. It'd been through hell and back and has been MASSIVELY abused through overloading and generally lashing stuff on where stuff shouldn't be. I broke an interior zipper by overfilling a pouch and I ripped a compression strap off the side by hanging too much weight off of it but other than that it held up pretty well. Unfortunately it met its maker after being left in the back of a friend's van that basically caught fire. The van didn't survive and neither did the pack... No amount of Cordura can be expected to withstand that!

Based on my overall positive experience, I went straight to the UK Tactical website to see what packs were now available from WAS. On sale at the time, the X300 pack jumped out immediately. At around 55ltrs in capacity the X300 is designed as a long range patrol pack but it gives you just about enough capacity to pack in everything you need for a if you are prepared to strap things like sleeping bags to the outside or generally travel a little lighter. I'm fine without the creature comforts of a big camp bed and generally make do with a lightweight self-inflating roll mat so I'm happy there.

The main compartment of the X300 is accessible in two ways. Firstly via the top opening that zips open like a flip top. Secondly

you can lay the pack on its back and access the compartment through the front. There's an opening that you zip through to get at the insides via a mesh divider. Flanking this main compartment are two more sections that can be zipped open like wings. These have dividers and small sub-pouches inside and are ideal to store cooking or medical gear.

The front of the pack features a wide but shallow external pouch that we found was great for a roll-up tool kit to live in. Above that the compartment that you can access the main section of the back through is ideal for spare clothing and the shock-cord webbing gives a decent spot to stuff a warm layer for rapid access. The top lid opens up too to reveal an internal pouch complete with a divider. This has so far been utilised as a "small trinkets" space for things that need grabbing hold of quickly and readily. Of course there's expansive external MOLLE webbing to allow you to fit extra pouches to your own requirements but we decided not to and instead take advantage of the bags narrow and easily manoeuvrable form factor which makes it easy to wear even in a tactical situation despite its size.

The main assets of the X300 don't just lie in pouches and organisation though. The strap system is more advanced than your average dat-sack and is fully adjustable to allow you to position the back for optimal load bearing. Along with padded shoulder straps with load lifer adjustment, there's also an amply padded waistband that really allows you to strap down and stabilise the whole thing. Further stability is provided at the core of the X300 via a rigid plastic frame system that keeps the pack in shape and prevents it from sagging around. Air mesh padding at pressure points on the back gives a feeling of comfort but also retains a high degree of airflow.

Given the feature set, we would not raise an eyebrow if the X300 was priced at double what it sells for all things considered it's punching well above its weight! If you need a bigger pack for military needs or even just camping weekends away, you will not be disappointed with the Warrior Assault Systems X300!

WARRIOR X300 ASSAULT SYSTEMS PACK

- **MAIN COMPARTMENT**
600mm x 300mm x 220mm
- **NO 1 OUTER COMPARTMENT**
50mm x 30mm x 260mm
- **NO 2 OUTER COMPARTMENT**
370mm x 260mm x 60mm
- **NO 3 OUTER COMPARTMENT**
30mm x 300mm x 120mm
- **CAPACITY**
55 Litre (Approximately)
- **AVAILABLE COLOURS**
Multicam, A-TACS FG, Olive Drab and Coyote Tan



SPECIAL FORCES SPECIFICATION

The X300 was designed with input from SF units with a requirement for a strong yet light weight versatile pack which allowed for compartmentalised storage with top and middle opening and comfort.

The requirement was for features such as removable padded belt system, variable height harness adjustment, 5 external storage pouches with large main compartment. The narrow design allows for efficient movement in a wide variety of environments (excellent in urban environments, narrow streets, doorways, houses etc).

The X300 has 3 x "Man Down" handles (1 x Top Center 1 x left side, 1 x right side) which allows for 2 man rapid extraction of casualty.

Access is via a helmet friendly top-opening lid with claymore-style heavy-duty zipped pouch on top side and also features a map style pocket on the inside. Additional access is via the large reinforced centre pocket; this features a heavy duty size 10 sealed seam zip which opens into a medium sized quick access pocket, (the flap opens top to bottom) this main external pocket is lined with a heavy duty air mesh fabric which has a similar zip which opens (bottom to top) allowing convenient access to the middle and bottom of the pack.

The pack is covered in 1 Inch MOLLE Webbing allowing the attachment of various pouches to increase carrying capacity.



FIGHTING FIT! BEAT THE BULGE



GETTING IN SHAPE ISN'T ALL ABOUT TRAINING, TRAINING AND MORE TRAINING. SURE, YOU CAN'T GET FIT WITHOUT PUTTING THE HOURS IN AT THE GYM OR AT HOME, BUT THERE COMES A POINT WHERE TRAINING HARD JUST ISN'T ENOUGH. OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, I WILL BE TAKING A LOOK AT THE INS AND OUTS OF DIETS, GIVING YOU A RANGE OF INFORMATION ON NOT ONLY A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT DIETS, BUT ALSO THE FUNDAMENTAL BASICS WITH WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CREATE YOUR OWN SELF CATERED DIET.

With the New Year not having long passed, the amount of people partaking in physical exercise tends to peak due to the various New Years resolutions and people just generally getting back into the gym after slouching around during the winter period. Having a vast number of friends who've picked up the fitness bug I often get asked for training regimes and how they can achieve their goals, and the one vital component of becoming a fitter version of yourself is often completely neglected or batted away as something they'll consider at a later date. That component is diet.

The analogy between the human body and the supercar is one that's been around for a long time with the saying 'you wouldn't put cheap fuel into a supercar' being as good a way to explain the idea of diet as any other. Sure, whilst your supercar will run with said cheap fuel in it, it'll always run better with the premium fuel in it - you wouldn't see Vettel racing his fabulous Red Bull F1 car with your standard unleaded from the local supermarket would you?!

The same can be said about the human body and exercise - whilst you'll be perfectly able to run on the treadmill for half hour after just eating your favourite fast food, you'd be able to run to a better standard if you were to eat some brown rice and chicken a couple of hours before heading over to the gym!

Diets can be a very difficult thing to adhere to though; you've got the hours of preparation for your meals, fresh foods cost a lot more than processed or frozen goods and done incorrectly your meals can taste VERY bland; something that can become a real stumbling block. You've then got to eat at very specific times so your body gets the best from your meals, you've got to count your intake of certain food types and before you know it dieting becomes more of a PhD in nutrition than a simple diet.

I totally understand if you're put off by the idea of dieting already, I've by no stretch of the imagination made it sound easy or appealing, but is anything that produces a brilliant end result ever easy? I get that you may not be able to adhere to a strict eating timeline due to work commitments, I get that on your Sunday the last thing you want to be doing is preparing all of your food for the week to come, I get that you enjoy the taste of unhealthy foods and I get that in this day and age some people do not have the disposable income to purchase fresh foods to support a healthy diet. But it doesn't have to be a chore, it doesn't have to be a sudden change that'll be a shock to the system - baby steps my friends, baby steps.

So before getting into the thick of things, lets take a look at the kinds of food types the human body is designed for and what it requires...

✓ CARBOHYDRATES

In the past we've seen a lot of people claim carbohydrates are bad for you full stop, when in fact that's most probably the biggest load of rubbish I've heard in terms of dietary needs. Carbohydrates are a diet staple and are important for providing the body with much needed slow release energy during exercise. Carbs are stored in the body in the form of glycogen, mostly in the muscles and liver. However, these stores are small so a regular intake of carbohydrates is needed to keep them topped up - a low glycogen count will result not only in poor performance but also an increased risk of injury.

Over half of your diet should come from carbohydrates; 55% is a figure banded around a lot in regards to this, however as of late specialists have been basing intake on grams per kilogram of body weight.

Generally speaking, there are two kinds of carbohydrates... *Refined and Unrefined*. Unrefined carbohydrates should be the staple of your carb intake and come from things like wholegrain breads, brown rice/pasta and cereal. Refined carbs come from white bread/rice/pasta, jams and lollies and are useful to boost the intake of carbs if needed.





**MAKE A
CHANGE, DUMP
THE JUNK AND GET
ON TO A HEALTHY
DIET ASAP!**



✓ PROTEIN

There's a lot of discussion about protein at the moment, with a lot of talk about high protein diets being worse for middle-aged men/women than smoking is. Where the idea of a high protein diet being good for you came from nobody quite knows but it's something that goes beyond athletes to those looking for a quick weight loss.

In the past people have looked towards high protein diets as a way to lose weight fast; leaving out carbs and cutting calories to get an easy fix, but all that's really happening is a loss of water through glycogen depletion, something that will leave you feeling pretty rubbish!

That's not to say that protein isn't a very important part of a training diet though, with an individual looking to take on between 1-1.7g per 1kg of body weight - I'm 70kg so I should be taking on around 110g of protein due to my high training allowance.

✓ FAT

People hear the word fat and tend to run a mile, however fat is an essential nutrient for optimal health. A lot of the scare about fat is simply not knowing the basics. You've got three kinds of fats - *Unsaturated fat*, *Saturated fat* and *Trans fat* - ranking from good to bad in that order.

Unsaturated fats come from olive oil, fish, almonds and flaxseed and are actually proven to have health benefits such as lowering cholesterol and reducing heart disease. This should be your main fat intake.

Saturated fats come from sources such as meat, egg yolk, cheese, butter and milk and taking on too much of this can lead to heart problems. However, in sensible amounts it's far from a good thing, look to take on about 10% of your daily calorie intake from saturated fats.

Trans fat is the big bad fat that people are so afraid of when you mention the term fat. Trans fats are created naturally or man made when an unsaturated fat is made into a solid and should be avoided like the plague, however a small intake isn't going to put you into cardiac arrest.



SO WHAT SHOULD MY DIET ACHIEVE?

The basic training diet should be sufficient to:

- ✓ Provide enough energy and nutrients to meet the demands of training and exercise.
- ✓ Enhance adaptation and recovery between training sessions.
- ✓ Include a wide variety of foods like wholegrain breads and cereals, vegetables (particularly leafy green varieties), fruit, lean meat and low-fat dairy products to enhance long term nutrition habits and behaviours.
- ✓ Enable the athlete to achieve optimal body weight and body fat levels for performance.
- ✓ Provide adequate fluids to ensure maximum hydration before, during and after exercise.
- ✓ Promote short and long-term athletic health.

I've already mentioned what figures you should be taking on in terms of fats, carbohydrates and protein, to reiterate you should be looking at...

- ✓ More than 55% from carbohydrates (The majority coming from unrefined sources).
- ✓ About 12 to 15% from protein (dependent on your dietary needs).
- ✓ Less than 30% from fat (The majority coming from unsaturated sources).

These figures aren't gospel and depending on what kind of training you do you may need to juggle these figures slightly. For example if you exercise strenuously for more than 60-90 minutes a day you may need to up your carbohydrate intake to a figure between 60- 75% of your daily intake to replenish glycogen stores.

MAKING A DIET WORK FOR YOU

Putting a diet plan together and making a diet work for you are two completely different things - anyone can sit down and put together a good diet that is balanced and healthy after doing a little research, however making a diet work for you so it not only doesn't become a chore but is also micro managed to give you the best outcomes is a whole different story altogether.



If diet was that easy do you think there'd be people out there making a fortune off people by constructing them well thought out diets?

If you've got the money I'd always recommend seeing a nutritionist about diet, they'll be able to tell you the ins and outs of anything and tailor make a diet to what kind of foods you enjoy, be able to give you some good recipes to spice your meals up a tad and will all round have a better knowledge of this kind of stuff than you or I.

If that's something that you physically can't afford, then don't worry, as I'll be taking you through a couple of recipes that are personal favourites of mine so you can give them a try!

Before we get there though there's a few things I'd like to bring up...

- ✓ Although you'd love to make a rapid change from your unhealthy diet to your healthy diet, some people just won't be able to hack such a quick change to their diets. For those of you who can't, take it in baby steps - maybe eating healthy meals for dinner but still eating the same breakfast and lunch.
- ✓ Although sauces are a bit no no, there are a few out there that won't make much difference - we're a big fan of the Nandos range of marinades as they taste great but more importantly aren't packed with sugar.
- ✓ Brown is best - if you change just the one thing with your diet, change your whites to browns, which includes bread, rice and pasta.
- ✓ Feeling peckish? Instead of heading for the chocolate draw, go for a handful of something like trail mix or unsalted nuts.
- ✓ Alcohol is pretty much a big no go zone when dieting, unfortunately it's laden with sugars!

Something I'm a massive fan of when dieting is the idea of a singular cheat meal per week or a cheat day per fortnight. Cheat days follow the same principles as rest days - simply let down your hair and chill the f^&* out! Eat what you want for a meal (within reason), have a couple of beers with your mates down the pub, go crazy and have a chocolate bar!

With these basic guidelines you should be able to start tailor-making your own diet plan, or at least have a better understanding of diets and how to pick the one that's best for you. Come back next month where we will be taking a look at a Raider favourite - The Paleo Diet!



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ON OUR RADAR TOURNIQUET SOLUTIONS

FRESH IDEAS!

GM ★ TACTICAL

IN ANY SITUATION WHERE CRITICAL BLEEDING CANNOT BE STOPPED VIA APPLICATION OF PRESSURE OR BANDAGES, A TOURNIQUET CAN BE APPLIED, PARTICULARLY ON A LIMB, TO STEM THE FLOW OF BLOOD. IT'S NOT AN OPTION TO BE ENTERED INTO LIGHTLY, FOR INSTANCE IN THE EXAMPLE OF A GENERAL CUT OR SCRAPE BUT IN A LIFE/DEATH SITUATION, THE RAPID APPLICATION OF A TOURNIQUET CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIVING AND DYING.

GM TACTICAL Q-CAT

WWW.GM-TACTICAL.COM

Of course in the cut and thrust world of combat and the battlefield, the threat of this kind of injury is far more prevalent than in day-to-day life, hence the routine carriage of one or more tourniquets. To put the level of danger and the timeframe involved into perspective, it has been written that some SF units have actually entered missions with tourniquets lightly wrapped around all 4 limbs and even with IV cannulas already inserted, just to

save time in the event of serious injury. This grisly tale aside, the GM Tactical Q-Cat provides slightly less extreme but no less prominent, high speed tourniquet delivery system.

The Q-Cat is comprised of a folded sandwich of 3mm Kydex that is formed to accept a folded CAT tourniquet with the windlass handle held vertically. With a rubber grommet and an adjustable screw, it's possible to adjust the amount

of tension applied to the tourniquet and therefore the amount of force required to remove it. Because of the almost total coverage of the tourniquet itself, the device is kept clean and clear of debris and can be folded up in a manner so that it unfurls as you remove it, pretty slick!

The Q-Cat is intended to be used as a MOLLE mounted solution that fits to your platform via a MALICE Clip bolted to the rear. This is nicely low profile and certainly isn't going to go anywhere once properly affixed, also providing wide compatibility with belts, plate carriers, chest rigs, bags and more. GM Tactical are also working on a smaller design that simply retains the tourniquet via tension and can be mounted on velcro platforms called the Go-Cat.

Whether you need a tourniquet or multiples of as part of your role or you just fancy something to enhance and embellish your airsoft kit, the GM Tactical Q-Cat provides a great mounting option and certainly beats the old method of strapping them on with elastic bands!



THE Q-CAT IS A MOLLE MOUNTED SOLUTION THAT FITS TO YOUR PLATFORM VIA A MALICE CLIP BOLTED TO THE REAR. THIS IS NICELY LOW PROFILE AND CERTAINLY ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE ONCE PROPERLY AFFIXED!

PRICE: £34.99 (PLUS POSTAGE)
FROM: TACTICAL-KIT.CO.UK OR GM-TACTICAL.COM





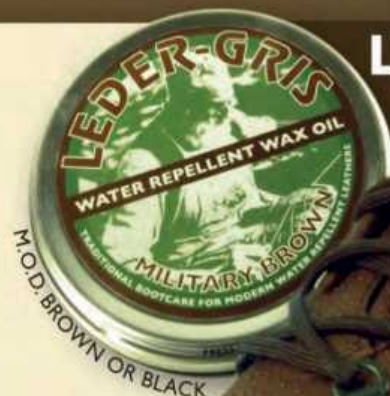
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Patented Lazer Cut System

The new Viper Tactical Lazer Cut Molle System is a lightweight and innovative platform that allows the user to customize and alter to their operational needs.

Using the most advanced manufacturing techniques, the Lazer Cut System is based on our strongest 600D Cordura which is cut out on the latest laser flatbed machines. It is then reinforced with tough, yet lightweight, webbing sewn onto the reverse side, adding strength and durability, making for a compact, lightweight and hard-wearing platform.

Taking any Lazer Cut System product as a platform, a totally unique operational tailored setup can easily be achieved by simply adding or reducing compatible pouches and equipment.

Our Lazer Cut System is compatible with other Molle/Modular systems.

patent number: GB2491624

LAZER RECON PACK

Capacity: 35ltr (approx)
Material: 600D Cordura
Dimensions cms: 45 x 25 x 33
Colours: V-Cam, Coyote,
Green, Black

Internal hydration sleeve
Multiple compression straps
Padded Ventex back and straps
Waist strap
Grab carry handle
Velcro ID panel
2 x V-Lock
1 x D-Lock

srp: £45.00



LAZER SPECIAL OPS PACK

Capacity: 45ltr (approx)
Material: 600D Cordura
Dimensions cms: 51 x 40 x 24
Colours: V-Cam, Coyote,
Green, Black

3 zipped compartments
Hydration system pocket
Multiple compression straps
Quick release belt strap
Velcro ID panel
2 x V-Lock, 1 x D-Lock

srp: £59.95



ALL AVAILABLE IN
V-CAM, COYOTE, OLIVE GREEN & BLACK



>GET THE TACTICAL
ADVANTAGE



LAZER DAY PACK

Capacity: 13.5ltr (approx)
Material: 600D Cordura
Dimensions cms: 19 x 20 x 43
Colours: V-Cam, Coyote, Green, Black

Hydration/coms outlet
Multiple compression straps
Hydration bladder mesh pocket
Shoulder straps with QR buckles
Compatible with Plate Carrier
1 x Large Velcro ID panels
2 x V-Lock, 1 x D-Lock

srp: £32.95



LAZER GARRISON PACK

Capacity: 35ltr (approx)
Material: 600D Cordura
Dimensions cms: 44 x 31 x 26
Colours: V-Cam, Coyote only

Lazer MOLLE Panels on front/sides
Fully mesh vented back
Internal Nylon hood closure
Velcro ID panel
2 x Main compression straps
Elasticated rim on lid
1 x Grab handle
Padded shoulder straps
Sternum strap with QR buckle
2 x V-Lock, 1 x D-Lock

srp: £27.50



LAZER PLATFORM

Material: 600D Cordura
Size cms: One size fits most
Colours: V-Cam, Coyote, Green, Black

Lazer MOLLE Webbing Panels
Velcro ID Panels
Quick Release Buckles
Adjustable Padded Shoulder Straps
Ventex Internals
Front & Rear Armour Compartments
Internal Side Utility Pouches
Removable Side Panels
Rear Cord-Lock Fastener
2 x MOLLE Bungee Retainer

srp: £75.95



LAZER CARRIER

Material: 600D Cordura
Size: One size fits most
Colours: V-Cam, Coyote, Green, Black

Lazer MOLLE Webbing Panels
Velcro ID Panels
Quick Release Buckles
Adjustable Padded Shoulder Straps
Padded Ventex Internals
Front & Rear Armour Compartments
Velcro outlet retainer

srp: £45.00



LAZER WAIST BELT

Material: 600D Cordura
Size: Fits up to 52" waist
Colours: V-Cam, Coyote, Green, Black

Full Lazer MOLLE exterior
Padded Ventex system
Interior webbing belt included
4 x D-Ring attachment points

srp: £22.50



LAZER DROP LEG PLATFORM

Material: 600D Cordura
Dimensions cms: 22 x 25 x 1
Colours: V-Cam, Coyote, Green, Black

Lazer MOLLE front panel
Left or right fitting
Elasticated webbing straps
Quick release buckle fastening

srp: £18.95



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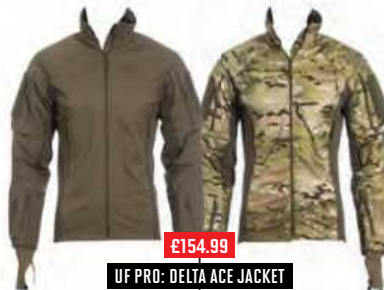
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LBX MODULAR ASSAULT
PANEL - MULTICAM

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AVAILABLE IN BROWN GREY AND MULTICAM

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UF PRO: HUNTER SWEATER
AVAILABLE IN MULTICAM AND GREENZONE

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MECHANIX: ORIGINAL
WOLF GREY GLOVES

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AVAILABLE IN COYOTE AND MULTICAM

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OAKLEY SI GLOVE
LIGHTWEIGHT - COYOTE

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IN!

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ALL NEW!

THERMAL LAYERING

COMPARATIVE REPORT

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW YEAR, IT'S NO SECRET THAT WINTER IS STILL LINGERING LIKE AN UNWELCOME PARTY GUEST. THIS SEASONAL WEATHER IS FAR FROM UNFORGIVING AND THERE IS NO EXCUSABLE REASON TO NOT BE PREPARED FOR TEMPERATURES THAT WILL LIKELY DIP BELOW FREEZING. KEEPING YOUR CORE WARM IN THESE TIMES IS A REAL NECESSITY, AND A GOOD FOUNDATION HELPS YOU BUILD UPON THIS...

For years outdoors companies have worked to produce winter performance clothing to best keep you warm in extreme climates. With various cold weather jackets, sleeping bags and even underwear on the market, you slowly start to realise that knowing where to begin with your winter apparel can be a tricky task.

However, it really is no different than your normal daily apparel, so you should treat it as such! You don't go out and buy a brand new pair of trousers if you're missing your underwear, and nor do you go out and spend a fortune on boots without a pair of socks.

The same principles apply when starting to prepare yourself for winter activities, and a word you will hear banded around a lot in the outdoors world is layering.



BASIC INSTINCT

SO WHAT MAKES A GOOD BASE LAYER?

LAYERING

Layering is one of the biggest buzzwords in the outdoors trade. Layering simply refers to the art of layering your clothing to get the best possible performance in various climates as possible. Not only does layering help your clothing perform as it is supposed to, with many companies referring to products as level 1/2/3. This level system will refer to which level of clothing it should be, with 1 being classed as the item you wear first, and 3 usually a coat.

Handled correctly layering will save your life on many an occasion, and will also allow you to simply strip off a single layer if your level of exertion starts to increase, meaning you need less clothing on.

THE BASIS OF YOUR LAYERING SYSTEM

We've spoke about layering in the past in our Survival section, so we won't be going to in-depth regarding it here. However, we will be discussing the basis of your layering system; a piece of clothing referred to as a 'Base Layer'.

Base Layers are simply t-shirts worn as your first level of a layering system, all usually using some form of sweat wicking process to keep sweat away from your core. Throughout the years base layers have evolved, using various different synthetic and natural materials to produce the best products on the market.



GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR BASE LAYER

HIGHSTREET FABRICS TO LOOK OUT FOR

✓ SYNTHETIC FABRICS

Synthetic base layers will largely be made from polyester and polyester blends. These base layers will keep wearer warm down to about -8 degrees when worn in combination with other layers.

These base layers are quick drying, lightweight and will wick away moisture from the skin to keep you dry very quickly. They are also machine washable and cheap as well. Unfortunately though they are not antibacterial nor as warm as their natural counterparts.

✓ NATURAL FABRICS

Natural base layers are made from Merino wool, a natural material that helps to regulate body temperature. The tiny air pockets in the wool help to draw away excess heat from the body, preventing you from overheating when you do prolonged vigorous exercise. They also retain heat within the fibres a lot better, meaning they can keep you warm to temperatures of around -15/-20 degrees.

✓ MERINO FABRICS

Merino base layers are a ton warmer than synthetic and retain their thermal properties even when wet, they are a lot more comfortable than synthetic counterparts, they're high wicking and naturally antibacterial and UV resistant. They are however a lot more expensive than synthetic base layers and may not wick as well nor are you able to machine wash them.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT BASE LAYER

After deciding which material you're most interested in, the chances are you're going to have to completely forget that decision. Whilst both types of base layer will have their specific pros and cons, they will also work differently in certain environments.

For example, if you're planning on being in an environment where you're likely to be wet, you're going to want your layers to retain heat. Synthetic fibres may work OK in wet conditions but Merino wool is by far the better fibre for wet weathers; retaining most, if not all of it's heat.

Fire is another thing you have to take into account. If you're going to be working around fires, even if it's a case of building a fire to keep you warm, you won't want to be using a synthetic fibre. At best you'll melt a hole in it - at worst you'll end up wearing your synthetic base layer for the rest of your life as it's melted into you.

ADDED FEATURES

There are countless added features that some base layers will utilise and others won't. Thumb holes and zips being the two most featured here.

We're a huge fan of both. Thumb loops stop the shirt from creeping up your arm, as well as help to keep your hands warm. Zips are also handy for not only helping vent heat if the base layer is buried under an array of other clothing, but they also allow you to remove them without removing your helmet if your climbing - and safety should always come first here.

ARC'TERYX

ARC'TERYX PHASE SV ZIP NECK

COTSWOLDOUTDOOR.COM

Ever present in our comparative reports, once again Arc'teryx have done nothing but impress us in this months category of choice.

The Phase SV Long Sleeve Zip Neck Top from Arc'Teryx is a heavyweight baselayer which is ideal for high output activities in unforgiving environments. The top has been constructed with hybrid mapping; a process that uses different fabrics in different sections of the top to optimise warmth while reducing weight. It's flat lock seams are also another great way Arc'Teryx have reduced bulk, making this an easy top to layer with without hindering your movement, but more importantly making it a whole heap more comfortable when wearing it next to your skin.

The high collar and front zip lend themselves brilliantly to the environments you may be facing; not only keeping your neck warm, but also allowing you to unzip the base layer whilst you've got other garments on top to vent any excess heat.

The fabric used also boasts a UPF 50+ for those cool and sunny alpine days where you need to protect yourself from both the cold weather but intense sun, allowing you to enjoy the finer weather in confidence that you won't end up burnt.

Overall the Phase SV is another fine example of the work they do at Arc'Teryx, combining brilliant performance with state of the art engineering to provide you with a base layer a cut above the rest.



FROM
£55



ICEBREAKER MENS TECH CREWE

COTSWOLDOUTDOOR.COM

Sometimes you've got to look good regardless of what environment you're in, and the Icebreaker Mens Tech Long Sleeve Crewe allows you to do exactly that, whilst keeping top class performance at the same time.

Styled as a 'baseball' shirt, the Mens Tech Crewe is a highly insulating base layer made from the best merino fabric on the market to keep your body at an ideal temperature whilst enjoying the wonders of the outdoors. Comfort is top notch here, with Icebreaker thinking over the design to purposefully make it as comfortable as you can get. With offset shoulder seams to prevent pack rub and a dropped rear hem, you can definitely see the thought gone into comfort design.

The merino wool Icebreaker have used are naturally lightweight, breathable and highly insulating, providing a hugely effective means of regulating your body temperature. In cold conditions the Icebreaker Crewe performs admirably, and once again I find myself saying that if Arc'Teryx weren't so on top of their game, we'd have a winner in the Icebreaker Crewe.

Overall we were very happy with the Icebreaker Crewe, and whilst it is a fair bit more expensive than any other product in this review, if you want to look cool but stay warm at the same time, then this is certainly the product for you.



FROM
£80

HELLY HANSEN MENS ICE CREW

COTSWOLDOUTDOOR.COM

Helly Hansen are name known the world round in skiing and snowboarding corners, hailed for being a company who definitely understand their clientele and produce a huge range of brilliant products. The Ice Crew certainly being one of them.

Made from a Merino/Polypropylene split, the Ice Crew works as a 2-in-1 base layer, able to work as both your first and second layer all in one. Whilst some may complain about this, for those on a budget it is definitely a sound investment.

Whilst the Ice Crew is very basic in design, it does utilise flat lock stitching, Lifa Stay Dry technology and more importantly it keeps you extremely warm in cold conditions.

Best of all the Helly Hansen Mens Ice Crew is on sale, meaning you can save a good £16 off the RRP... Bargain if you ask us!

★★★★★ **STYLE**
★★★★★ **WARMTH**
★★★★★ **COMFORT**
★★★★★ **PERFORMANCE**
★★★★★ **COST**

RAIDER
RECOMMENDS!
★★★★★



FROM
£39

BERGHAUS THERMAL LONG SLEEVE ZIP NECK

COTSWOLDOUTDOOR.COM

Some pieces of clothing just scream 'LOOK AT ME!', and the Berghaus Thermal Long Sleeve Zip Neck certainly does that. Why you ask? Well coming in three luminous colours, you'd be hard to miss someone wearing one!

Made from Berghaus's own Argentium fabric, the Thermal Long Sleeve is an exquisite example of a base layer. Odour resistant, protected to UPF 50+, with a built in lock-down zipper and stretch binding to the inner collar, the Long Sleeve Zip is rammed with features.

Again, whilst very basic in design, there is something rather appealing about the look. Be it the bright colours or strategically places seams I'm unsure, but it certainly is eye catching to say the least; especially in the elect green and orange colours available.

Overall a good effort from Berghaus. Not breaking any boundaries but producing a capable base layer that won't let you down.

★★★★★ **STYLE**
★★★★★ **WARMTH**
★★★★★ **COMFORT**
★★★★★ **PERFORMANCE**
★★★★★ **COST**



FROM
£50

SALOMON TRAIL RUNNER

COTSWOLDOUTDOORS.COM

A brand known around the world for their outdoors products, Salomon are what some would call market leaders in their field; providing very high quality performance, and whilst that may be true of the Trail Runner, we're not 100% sure it's worth the price.

Made from a synthetic blend known as actiTHERM, the Trail Runner is something I'd be more comfortable wearing in the British winter, and certainly wouldn't be approaching the Alps with one packed in my bag.

What the Trail Runner does well though is features. It has 1 chest pocket, perfect for items such as wallets, MP3 Players and Phones, 2 hand warmers, a 1/2 zip with stay down puller to allow for venting when needs be and reflective branding on both front and back.

Whilst the Salomon Trail Runner isn't going to be braving the Alps anytime soon, we do wonder whether that was ever it's intended audience. With a name like Trail Runner I'm near enough certain this is more for your English winter mornings when you're off out for a run and need that extra cold weather protection.

★★★★★ **STYLE**
★★★★★ **WARMTH**
★★★★★ **COMFORT**
★★★★★ **PERFORMANCE**
★★★★★ **COST**



FROM
£60

JACK WOLFSKIN MERINO LONG SHIRT

COTSWOLDOUTDOOR.COM

If you've by any way been involved in the outdoors trade, Jack Wolfskin should be a name you're more than aware of. Made from 100% Merino - this Long Shirt is certainly more a performer than a looker. In terms of looks, there really is nothing to say about this base layer. It is simply a dark grey item, complimented by light grey and blue seaming and a light grey Jack Wolfskin logo on the left breast.

However, when it comes to performance the Merino Long Sleeve is certainly up there with the top dogs. Warm up to -15 degrees, the Merino Long Sleeve has it's merino roots to thank for this. You've also got a very comfortable, stretchy top here, again thanks to the use of merino wool.

Overall we think Jack Wolfskin have the right idea here. A no thrills base layer that performs to a top standard, as after all no one is going to see your base layer on the slopes!

★★★★★ **STYLE**
 ★★★★★ **WARMTH**
 ★★★★★ **COMFORT**
 ★★★★★ **PERFORMANCE**
 ★★★★★ **COST**



FROM
£75

ODLO REVOLUTION

BASELAYER.CO.UK

Designed with style and practicality the Men's Revolution Warm Thermal Long Sleeve Half Zip, offers great warmth provided by the super soft merino wool inner lining with the durability and moisture control of the synthetic external fabric finish to eradicate moisture and increase evaporation to keep you dry, light and warm.

The Revolution has a soft fitted body design with super soft Merino Wool on the inner layer invisibly bonded using a unique patented fabrication technique with the external durable synthetic layer to create a superior soft, stylish and warm base layer garment.

An invisible zip structure built into the left side allows for increased ventilation if needs be, and allows for the Revolution to keep its very stylish looks without compromising performance.

Overall the Odlo Revolution is a solid performer, but once again we've another product here let down by it's price.

★★★★★ **STYLE**
 ★★★★★ **WARMTH**
 ★★★★★ **COMFORT**
 ★★★★★ **PERFORMANCE**
 ★★★★★ **COST**



FROM
£72

TRIPLE AUGHT DESIGN PRIMER CREW

HEINNIE.COM

Another day, another brilliant Triple Aught Design product - this month it's the Primer Crew. Over the past 6 months or so we've been working closely with the guys over at Heinnie to bring people the best in Triple Aught Design gear, and we've yet to be disappointed yet.

Designed in the ever present 'waffle knit' style - one that has served millions of people in the past from those on the frontier to space stations, TAD Gear take that heritage and elevate it to new performance levels.

Capable as a standalone layer or as part of a layering system, the Primer Crew is potentially one of the best performing base layers we have come across. It is definitely the most comfortable out of all the base layers on show and if it wasn't for the price, it would have likely been best in category for this month.

Triple Aught Design have once again produced another brilliant product, and you have to start asking yourself 'what next?' for TAD, but more importantly you find yourself saying 'what shall I buy next!?'

★★★★★ **STYLE**
 ★★★★★ **WARMTH**
 ★★★★★ **COMFORT**
 ★★★★★ **PERFORMANCE**
 ★★★★★ **COST**



FROM
£85

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ENGLAND



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THE TABBING BOOT

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SOCKS DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT A DECENT PAIR!

IT'S PAINFULLY APPARENT WITHIN ALL WALKS OF LIFE THAT THE ONE PIECE OF TECHNICAL CLOTHING THAT IS MASSIVELY OVERLOOKED IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECES OF CLOTHING YOU CAN EVER PURCHASE. SOCKS ARE SOMETHING THAT PEOPLE JUST SEEM TO COMPLETELY DISREGARD, AND OFTEN YOU'LL SEE PEOPLE WEARING A PAIR OF NORMAL BLACK SOCKS WHEN OUT ON ARDUOUS HIKES OR WHILST IN THEATRE. WITH PEOPLE SPENDING A SMALL FORTUNE ON THE LIKES OF BOOTS, COATS AND VARIOUS OTHER ITEMS, WE'RE HERE TO EDUCATE YOU ON SOME OF THE BEST SOCKS ON THE MARKET!



EDZ COMFORT 5000 MERINO SOCK

Over the winter period we have been on a search to find some of the best performance socks on the market, and have so far brought you some brilliant examples from some rather well known companies, however like everything out there, there are always some brilliant products lurking in the lesser known reaches of the outdoors market, and that's exactly where we would place this month's pair of socks - the EDZ Comfort 5000 Merino Sock.

Prior to our review sample turning up from EDZ, they were a company that hadn't registered on our radar in the slightest. In fact EDZ were simply a company that no one on the Raider team had heard of before; quite a feat considering the wealth of knowledge available within our small editorial team.

EDZ are an English company, based just down the road from the Lake District National Park in Maryport, Cumbria. Owned by a single family, EDZ have been in business since 1995, providing outdoor products tested in the Lakeland fells for over two decades.

Last month we mentioned how our outdoor adventures had very much been put on hold over the winter months due to a mixture of terrible weather and a real lack of wanting to be out in the cold for too long, however this month saw us get some real outdoors use, albeit doing the gardening, but when you have just under 2 acres of garden to deal with, it soon becomes a good enough testing ground for coats, boots and in this instance socks.

The EDZ Comfort 5000 Merino Sock are the

warmest sock on offer by the guys at EDZ and come in two different styles - long or short. We received the long version of the sock for review, and we can tell you long certainly means long, with the sock covering up to just below the knee - perfect for use with boots and wellingtons. The length also gives you an added bit of warmth and protection for your legs, which is always a bonus.

Of the socks we've reviewed over the last few months the EDZ Comfort 5000 is most probably the least comfortable of them, with the material in use being a bit rough to the touch in comparison. That's not to say they are uncomfortable though, because they simply aren't, however they don't give you that instant feeling of warmth when you first don them like other pairs have done in the past.

That being said though, they are REALLY warm. In fact I'd go as far as saying they're the warmest of the bunch. At the time of testing we've been getting some light sprinkles of snow meaning the temperature is pretty low, and not once have I had to complain about my feet being cold... In fact they've been about the warmest part of my body for the period of use! They also offer a lot of extra reinforcement in key areas to add durability, meaning they'll last longer than you could ever imagine.

Like always, past those points socks are a difficult one to review. They look like any normal pair of performance socks, and they make use of the same materials as most merino technical socks. They are a little on the expensive side at £20.00, but they are also a lot thicker than the Snugpak Merino Sock we reviewed last month, so the price is probably indicative of this.

Overall the EDZ Comfort 5000 Merino Sock is a strong example of a pair of technical socks done properly. They are comfortable, they are warm and they do what they're supposed to. Whether you need a pair of socks this thick for the British weather is another question however, but should you be adventuring out onto the slopes this winter or simply live in a colder climate, we can imagine the £20.00 to be well worth it.

ESSENTIALS!

EVERYDAY ESSENTIALS IS OUR TAKE ON WHAT YOU MIGHT NEED ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS. BE IT A KNIFE, WALLET, BELT OR MUG, NO EVERYDAY ITEM IS OVERLOOKED BY OUR TEST TEAM WITH MANY OF THE ITEMS ON SHOW BEING PERSONAL FAVOURITES STRAIGHT FROM THE DEPTHS OF RAIDER HQ. THIS MONTH WE TAKE A LOOK AT A RANGE OF PRODUCTS INCLUDING THE TIMEX WEEKENDER, COCOON GRID-IT ORGANIZER AND THE DRAGON'S TAIL KNIFE...

↓ COMBATIVE EDGE DRAGON'S TAIL KNIFE

Kicking off this month's Everyday Essentials is the Dragon's Tail Knife, made by Combative Edge. Now we'll point something out before going any further - The Dragon's Tail Knife isn't really an item you could carry on a day-to-day basis here in the UK due to the various laws surrounding knife carrying, however our American brethren will no doubt find this an appealing answer to their EDC needs.

The Dragon's Tail has an upgraded sophisticated design for even more sharpness and blade efficiency. The unique style of its hooked handle makes this a must-have for any tactical application or outdoorsmen, and the custom sheath can be mounted in various configurations whether it's on your belt, pack or plate carrier.

TRUST US, YOU DON'T WANT TO
ADVENTURE WITHOUT THIS!

- ❑ Includes a custom Kydex sheath (can be mounted or worn in various configurations).
- ❑ Made in the USA
- ❑ Made w/ a high quality D2 steel blade for extra strength & edge retention.
- ❑ Includes a unique curved handle w/ finger hole.
- ❑ Inspired by a traditional Karambit.
- ❑ Crafted w/ a functional & universal blade design.

\$119

↓ SOG CASH CARD KNIFE

Another one for our American friends, the SOG Cash Card Knife forges two of your everyday needs in one - a knife, and somewhere to store your money!

Simple, light, and compact: the SOG Cash Card is a minimalist's dream knife. It boasts a durable blade in a slim profile that easily conceals in any pocket. Clip it to the inside of your pocket or use it as a money and card clip, it ensures that you have everything you need to survive in the modern world.



\$45

SOG EVEN OFFER AN ENGRAVING SERVICE, SO SHOULD YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS A DISTINCT LOVE OF KNIVES AND THE GREAT OUTDOORS OR IT'S THEIR BIRTHDAY COMING UP... WELL YOU KNOW THE DRILL, BUY THAT MAN A PRESENT!

↓ GERBER GDC MONEY CLIP

Keeping on the theme of knives that double up as money clips, our friends over at Gerber came up with the brilliant GDC Money Clip.

The sleek GDC Money Clip, capably houses a nimble blade within a 3.6-inch body, allowing it to be easily stowed in a pocket. True to the always ready everyday carry lifestyle and built for the practical gentleman, the Money Clip is a Gerber innovation for modern day superheroes.



\$17

WARNING: THIS IS A REAL BUDGET BUSTER. THE CLEVER BLEND OF QUALITY, LOOKS AND FUNCTIONALITY WARRANTS PICKING UP THE TAB AT THE BAR EVERY TIME JUST TO SHOW IT OFF! NOTE: PLEASE CHECK THE CARRY LAWS IN YOUR COUNTRY!

→ THE EDC PREPPER PARACORD SURVIVAL KIT

Etsy is an amazing portal at times. Yes, whilst you often get a ton of homemade rubbish that people are trying to flog for a stupid price, on occasion you come across brilliant buys such as this EDC Prepper Paracord Bracelet. This Every Day Carry bracelet is a wearable survival and tool kit that is always on you. Inside this paracord strap you will find useful gear such as; a fire starter, cutting blade, LED light, compass, fishing kit, handcuff key and more. The EDC Prepper outfits you with the ability to lash together limbs to form a shelter/raft, suture a wound, start a fire, patch a torn tent, light your path in the dark, fish, navigate to a rally point, cut thru zipties/rope, escape handcuffs, and signal an alert. Forget pocket dumping a handful when you strap it to your wrist!

What's better is the guys behind the EDC Prepper Parachord Bracelet Survival Kit also sell a whole range of other bracelets tailored to other situations, so should the Survival Kit be a little too much for you, you can find something a little bit more tailor-made for you!

£89



↓ HUCKBERRY STANDARD KEYSMART

Moving away from the ninja knife money clips, the Huckberry Standard Keysmart is a nice little tool to keep all of your keys in one easy to carry container.

The frame is meant for the everyday user with an emphasis on style and weight. The frame is cut from a stock of 'Aluminium 6061', then tumbled and sandblasted for a smooth finish. It is then put through a hardening process followed by a colour anodise. This makes it very durable, scratch-proof, and keeps the light weight benefits of aluminium. The posts and top ring are made of stainless steel to hold up in the toughest conditions. Finally, a rubber insert takes up any slack needed, and creates a smooth glide and locking positions.

FEATURES

- Unique 'S' design allows you to hold 2-4 keys.
- Compact size is smaller than a pack of gum.
- Universal, will fit almost any key found at your local hardware store.
- Ultra strong and can withstand anything your life throws at it.
- Eliminates any key jingle.
- Hides jagged teeth while exposing the smooth back of the keys for easy access.
- Handmade in Chicago.

A COMPACT AND UNIVERSAL POCKET PAL THAT WILL FIT ALMOST ANY KEY. IT'S CHOSEN NAME 'KEYSMART' REALLY DOES SUM IT UP!



\$22

↓ COCOON GRID-IT ORGANISER

Whilst on the topic of storage, the Cocoon GRID-IT Organiser is a must have if you're a bit of a gadget hoarder like we are.

Cocoon's GRID-IT organisation system is a patent pending object retention system. It features a unique weave of rubberised elastic bands made specifically to hold your personal objects firmly in place. The GRID-IT Organiser can be configured in more or less any way you want it so that your possessions can be stored and carried in a way that suits you.

We've personally found it to be a brilliant way to take any chargers or leads on holiday - simply gather them up, design your layout and store all of your gadget goodies!

AVAILABLE IN A RANGE OF SIZES AND COLOURS, GRID-IT IS AS VERSATILE AS LIFE ITSELF!



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13 HOURS

THE SECRET SOLDIERS OF BENGHAZI

BASED ON TRUE EVENTS

VERY RARELY DO WE SEE GOOD FILMS BASED ON TRUE WAR EVENTS THESE DAYS. PRIOR TO 13 HOURS: THE SECRET SOLDIERS OF BENGHAZI ONLY 'LONE SURVIVOR' AND 'KAJAKI' SPRING TO MIND. 13 HOURS IS A MICHAEL BAY PRODUCTION BASED LOOSELY AROUND THE ATTACK OF THE AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC COMPOUND IN BENGHAZI, LIBYA IN 2012, AND THE FILM BRINGS SOME SERIOUS FIREPOWER TO THE BIG SCREEN.

Directed and co-produced by Michael Bay, 13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi recounts the true life events of six members of a security team who fought to defend the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya on the eleventh anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks. Originally a book written by Mitchell Zuckoff, Michael Bay started work on the film in Malta in 2015.

Obviously with many 'true events' reworked for the big screen, the term true events is a very loose one. Essentially the film is a Hollywood action spectacular, with all the cinematic firepower the genre brings with it, based loosely around the

events of those long 13 hours; but that's not to say it isn't an enjoyable watch.

The film brings the term 'Operator' to the forefront, with a 6 man security team all with vast military backgrounds being the centrepiece of the film, tasked with the job of providing security for the American installation that was part temporary diplomatic outpost and part covert CIA station. It is their version of events that the film portrays, the same version of events as told in the Zuckoff book. The operators are played, with huge energy and considerable charm, by John Krasinski, James Badge Dale, Pablo Schreiber, David Denman, Dominic Fumusa and Max Martini.



If you don't want to read any spoilers regarding the film, now would be a good time to stop reading!

SPOILER ALERT! Of the six, five survived the ferocious 13-hour attack on the night of September 11, 2012 that also led to the death of Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens, an American diplomat and lawyer who served as the U.S. Ambassador to Libya from June 2012 up to his untimely death on September 12, 2012.

Michael Bay does well in borrowing various stereotypes from well scripted films such as scenes of our six security team members laughing and joking prior to going into battle, yearning for their wives, children and girlfriends back home.

One thing the film does do brilliantly which isn't often touched upon is American weakness of foreign soil, unable to defend themselves against a fanatical enemy. Waves and waves of terrorists bombard themselves upon the defences of the compound, and with only 6 trained soldiers on location, their vulnerability is often shown. Scenes of RPGs hitting the concrete building and an American flag being shot to shreds in the night sky are shown throughout, and the inability to do anything but cower is the theme for anyone but our six heroes.



Overall 13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi is a solid Hollywood blockbuster that borrows from the events of a tragic day. If you're a fan of films such as Black Hawk Down, Lone Survivor, Act of Valor and the likes, 13 Hours will definitely go down a treat.

AIRSOFT

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

THE THIN BLUE LINE

ACE ARMS
TIER 1 MODS
GLOCK 19 CONVERSION KITS
FROM SALIENT ARMS **PAGE 52**



COUNTER TERROR!
MET POLICE SPECIAL
FIREARMS TEAM

**NUPROL
UPGRADES**

NEW GEAR!

**INTERNAL
OVERHAUL
UNVEILED**
PAGE 40

NEW MARUI MWS!

IS THIS LATEST GAS GUN JUST A
LOAD OF HOT AIR? **FIND OUT INSIDE**



LOAD UP LIKE A PRO
GEAR UP LIKE A PRO WITH OUR
EASY LOAD OUT GUIDE **PAGE 36**

SPECTRE V2 MOSFET
HOW TO FIT THIS ESSENTIAL BIT
OF KIT TO YOUR RECOIL **PAGE 75**

KING OF THE CARRIERS!
THE WARRIOR ASSAULT SYSTEMS DCS
THE FIRST (AND LAST) PLATE CARRIER
YOU'RE EVER GOING TO NEED **PAGE 34**



**LATEST
ISSUE
OUT NOW!**

**TRIED AND
TESTED!**

**TACTICAL
TREATS TO
GUNS AND
GEAR WE
BREAK IT
BEFORE YOU
BUY IT!**

INTELLIGENT ARMOUR CT BELT
WHAT A BELTER! HAVE WE DISCOVERED A GAME CHANGER?: CHECK OUT **PAGE 62**



INNER BARRELS!
WE TAKE A CLOSER LOOK DOWN THE PIPELINE



UPGRADES
IS IT ALL ACTUALLY WORTH IT?

ebcon
publishing ltd.



VOL:11 ISS:10 £4.25

DIRECT ACTION!

AT THE TIME OF WRITING THINGS ARE ALL A LITTLE QUIET ON THE ARMED FORCES FRONT. WITH THE NEW YEAR ONLY 18 DAYS IN, MANY BATTALIONS ARE SIMPLY SAT IDLE, WAITING FOR THEIR NEXT EXERCISE OR DEPLOYMENT. THAT SAID, WE'VE STILL MANAGED TO PULL TOGETHER 4 DIRECT ACTION PIECES FOR YOU!



RAIDER ON THE SCENE!



■ **PAGES: 50-51**
PUMA SQUADRON
CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

■ **PAGES: 52-53**
ROYAL NAVY SAIL TO
THE WORLD'S END

■ **PAGE: 54**
1ST BATTALION THE
ROYAL REGIMENT OF
FUSILIERS TACKLE THE
JUNGLES OF BRUNEI

■ **PAGE: 55**
SALISBURY PLANE
SEES A DIFFERENT
KIND OF EXERCISE

Our first feature sees Puma Squadron mark 100 years of service with a ceremony, complete with a range of stunning photography. 52-53 marks a historic landmark, with HMS Protector visiting the East Antarctic; a feat not achieved for 88 years by the UK Government. Page 54 sees Y Company, 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers take on the jungles of Brunei, and we've got some absolutely stunning imagery to support. And finally Page 55 takes a different approach, with Salisbury Plains being made use of over the Christmas period by the Alaskan Malamute Working Association, with some impressive canine handling on show!

DIRECT
ACTION!

P U M A S Q U A D R O N

RAIDER

PUMA SQUADRON MAKING THEIR 100 YEAR MARK!

TODAY MARKS 100 YEARS SINCE THE FORMATION OF 33 SQUADRON AND THE ICONIC DAY WAS COMMEMORATED WITH A FORMAL PARADE IN THE HANGAR THAT HAS BEEN THEIR HOME SINCE 1997.



The Squadron was formed in Filton on 12 January 1916 as part of the Home Defence and has continued to contribute to combat and humanitarian operations around the globe over the past century. Currently 33 Squadron A Flight are deployed in Afghanistan in support of Operation TORAL, the ongoing NATO training mission.

The Squadron is no stranger to serving overseas, having spent many years much of World War II operating over Europe before moving to the Far East. From operating the Bristol F2b as part of the world's first dedicated Night Fighter Force during World War I to flying the iconic Spitfire during the later World War II years, the Squadron has continued to deliver excellence with the most capable aircraft. They currently operate the extensively upgraded Puma 2 helicopter, which provides essential lift capabilities for combat, training, disaster relief, humanitarian and air security missions.

Squadron personnel were joined today by several of their former Commanding Officers for a formal centenary parade in their hangar. The Vice Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Mr John Harwood DL, kindly agreed to act as the Reviewing Officer for the parade of over 80 RAF personnel. Also amongst the distinguished guests was Michael Percifull, a former member of the Squadron who was also celebrating his 90th birthday today.

Following the parade there was a short memorial

service in the hangar where all those who have served on the Squadron over the past century were remembered, particularly those who made the ultimate sacrifice. A centenary painting was also unveiled, taking pride of place in the main entrance to the Squadron.

Group Captain Simon Paterson, Station Commander at RAF Benson where the Squadron is currently based, said: "I was delighted be part of the historic centenary parade for 33 Squadron today. It is not often in your career you can say you've been part of such a significant event. The Squadron has such a colourful and extensive history that it is only fitting their centenary was marked with such gravitas, particularly as they continue to deliver excellence on operations in Afghanistan."

Wing Commander Mark Biggadike, the Officer Commanding 33 Squadron who formally handed over the Squadron and its heritage to his successor Wing Commander Andy Baron at the parade, said: "Today has been a day that I will never forget. It has been an absolute honour to command the Squadron for the past two years and I can think of no better way to complete my duties than to celebrate and commemorate our centenary with so many of 33 Squadron past and present. 33 Squadron has achieved so much over the past century and I am certain that they will continue to deliver excellence to Defence for many years to come."



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T H E R O Y A L N A V Y

RAIDER

TO THE WORLD'S END

ROYAL NAVY COMPLETES HISTORIC PATROL

THE ROYAL NAVY'S ICE PATROL SHIP HAS JUST COMPLETED A HISTORIC FIVE WEEK PATROL TO THE EAST ANTARCTIC AND ROSS SEA. HMS PROTECTOR IS THE FIRST ROYAL NAVY, OR UK GOVERNMENT, VESSEL TO HAVE VISITED THE REGION IN 80 YEARS OR TO HAVE TRAVELLED SO FAR SOUTH HAVING DIPPED BELOW 77 DEGREES LATITUDE.



Her mission has been to support the work of the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) in protecting the unique Antarctic eco-system through close co-operation with Australia and New Zealand.

During her patrol Protector inspected a number of fishing vessels to ensure they adhere to the strict licensing regulations in the area.

In addition the ship also paid a visit to the Italian Antarctic research station, Mario Zucchelli, while members of the ship's company paid homage to the legendary British Antarctic explorers; Captain Robert Falcon Scott RN and Sir Ernest Shackleton.

The UK is a founding signatory of the Antarctic Treaty and takes its responsibilities in the region very seriously - determined to uphold the key tenets of the Treaty of protecting the environment and preserving the area for scientific research.

Within 24 hours of arriving in the Ross Sea, the ice patrol ship had carried out the first of several CCAMLR inspections with six embarked Australian and New Zealand specialists to support.



Lieutenant Commander Ross Hickey, of the Royal New Zealand Navy, said: "It was a pleasure and a privilege to join HMS Protector in the Southern Ocean patrol and to the Ross Sea, particularly due to New Zealand's involvement in heroic Antarctic exploration in both Scott's and Shackleton's expeditions.

"New Zealand is looking forward to hosting Protector when she visits our country later in the month."

While in the Ross Sea, Protector visited the Antarctic research station, Mario Zucchelli, on the shores of Terra Nova Bay where Italian scientists proudly showed their facility.

Warrant Officer Jimmy Stuart, Protector's deputy marine engineering officer, said: "This was my first station visit and it was fascinating to see how the team supported themselves in such an inhospitable environment. It is one of our roles to visit stations in order to build up good relationships amongst the Antarctic Treaty nations.

"While it was a bright sunny day when we visited, we have become all too aware of how quickly the weather can turn nasty down here."

During the Austral Summer, the Ross Sea can lose most of its ice and it is possible for ships to push further south than anywhere else on the continent.

It was from this region that the great Antarctic explorers mounted their expeditions to reach the South Pole.

The legendary Norwegian explorer, Roald Amundsen started the journey that led him to being the first person to reach the South Pole from the Ross Ice Shelf.

Similarly, the British explorers, Captain Robert Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton commenced their epic journeys from the Ross Sea including Scott's fateful final expedition in 1911/12.

In honour of Scott, Shackleton, and the men they led, many of Protector's ship's company visited the huts they used as their base stations.

Protector's ship's company were granted permission to visit Scott's hut at Cape Evans by the New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust.

The embarked New Zealand Defence Force liaison officer, Lt Cdr Hickey, acted as guide for the visit and the sailors got to witness a scene that had been untouched in years.

Fur boots and skis lay where they had been left, the wooden bunks still have their sleeping bags and clothes were hung over stoves, as if drying in the warmth.

It was there that Protector's chaplain, Rev Andrew Allcock, held a remembrance service in memory of those who died during their return journey from the Pole.

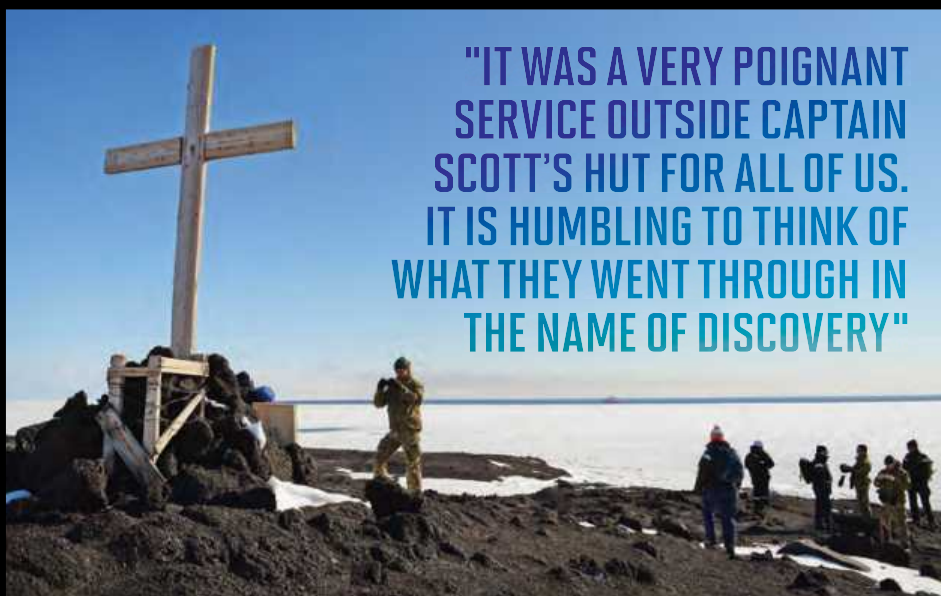
Lieutenant Kate Retallick, operations officer 2, said: "It was a very poignant service outside Captain Scott's hut for all of us. It is humbling to think of what they went through in the name of discovery."

After the visit to Scott's hut the ship went on to pay respect to Sir Ernest Shackleton and his team - fifteen miles to the north, another visit facilitated by the New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust.

By visiting this region Protector achieved a latitude of 77 Degrees 56 Minutes South - the very edge of the vast Ross Ice Shelf, named for James Clark Ross who led the exploration of the area.

No official British ship has been this far south since 1936 and it is believed not since James Clark Ross's own expedition in 1842.

Able Seaman Jumper Collins said: "Protector is my first ship and to have joined her in Australia and see the Antarctic in my first month on board has been amazing."



"IT WAS A VERY POIGNANT SERVICE OUTSIDE CAPTAIN SCOTT'S HUT FOR ALL OF US. IT IS HUMBLING TO THINK OF WHAT THEY WENT THROUGH IN THE NAME OF DISCOVERY"



RAIDER

TIDWORTH SOLDIERS' CONDUCT JUNGLE TRAINING IN BRUNEI

Y COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF FUSILIERS, BASED AT TIDWORTH, WILTSHIRE, ARE CONDUCTING JUNGLE WARFARE TRAINING IN BRUNEI, LEARNING TO LIVE, SURVIVE AND FIGHT IN THIS UNIQUE TRAINING ENVIRONMENT.

The Fusiliers who are usually an armoured infantry unit, fighting from the Warrior armoured fighting vehicle, have relished the opportunity reengage with the light infantry role. They have been training hard, in their core infantry skills, ranging from basic field craft to more advanced jungle survival techniques.

The troops will be living in the jungle for the next month, training in heat that has exceeded 35 degrees. And learning to use their environment to their advantage and prove why the British army is such a effective, adaptable fighting force, who are able to deploy to any environment around the world.



FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

RAIDER

SALISBURY PLAIN HOSTS ALASKAN MALAMUTES ON A CANINE EXERCISE

WHILST THE MILITARY TOOK A WELL-EARNED BREAK OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD, THE SALISBURY PLAIN TRAINING AREA HOSTED AN EXERCISE OF THE CANINE VARIETY.

The Alaskan Malamute Working Association (AMWA) returned to the military training area on the Sunday 27th & Monday 28th December 2015 for its annual Working Dog Event, the Salisbury Plain Trek.

The event organiser, John Binding said, 'Salisbury Plain is an ideal venue with its wide range of terrain and conditions. It's the perfect place to learn about the dogs' abilities and to work together as a team. The weather was ideal for our canine competitors'.

'The purpose of the Trek which is not timed is to allow competitors who go out in groups, the opportunity to work their dogs in harness over longer distances which is really what they are bred to do. There were a choice of four distances - 7.5, 13, 16.5 or 25 miles. There was also a night run which was set to be a minimum of 10 miles. Potentially teams could cover a minimum of 60 miles over the two days'.

'There were different team sizes ranging from 1-8 dogs. We use a three-wheeled cart called a Rig which the team of harnessed dogs is connected to using a gang line and pull from the front. The only control you have over them is by voice commands. Purpose built scooters and mountain bikes can also be used for one-dog teams, which they pull from the front'.

'The dogs do genuinely enjoy working in harness. They tend to get very excited and at times noisy and just want to go. It is however, about knowing your dogs and their capabilities. You work as a team, competitor and dog'.

The event attracted over 30 entries over the two days with up to 100 sled dogs, with some competitors travelling from as far as Ireland, Birmingham and Essex to compete.

The aim of the Trek is for the teams' to earn their Working Dog Trek certificates, by completing those set confirmed mileages at an AMWA organised event.

AMWA Working Dog weekend events are held at number of venues throughout the UK between November and March. They are open to recognised purebred sled dog breeds such as the Alaskan Malamute, Siberian Husky, Canadian Eskimo and Greenland dogs.



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